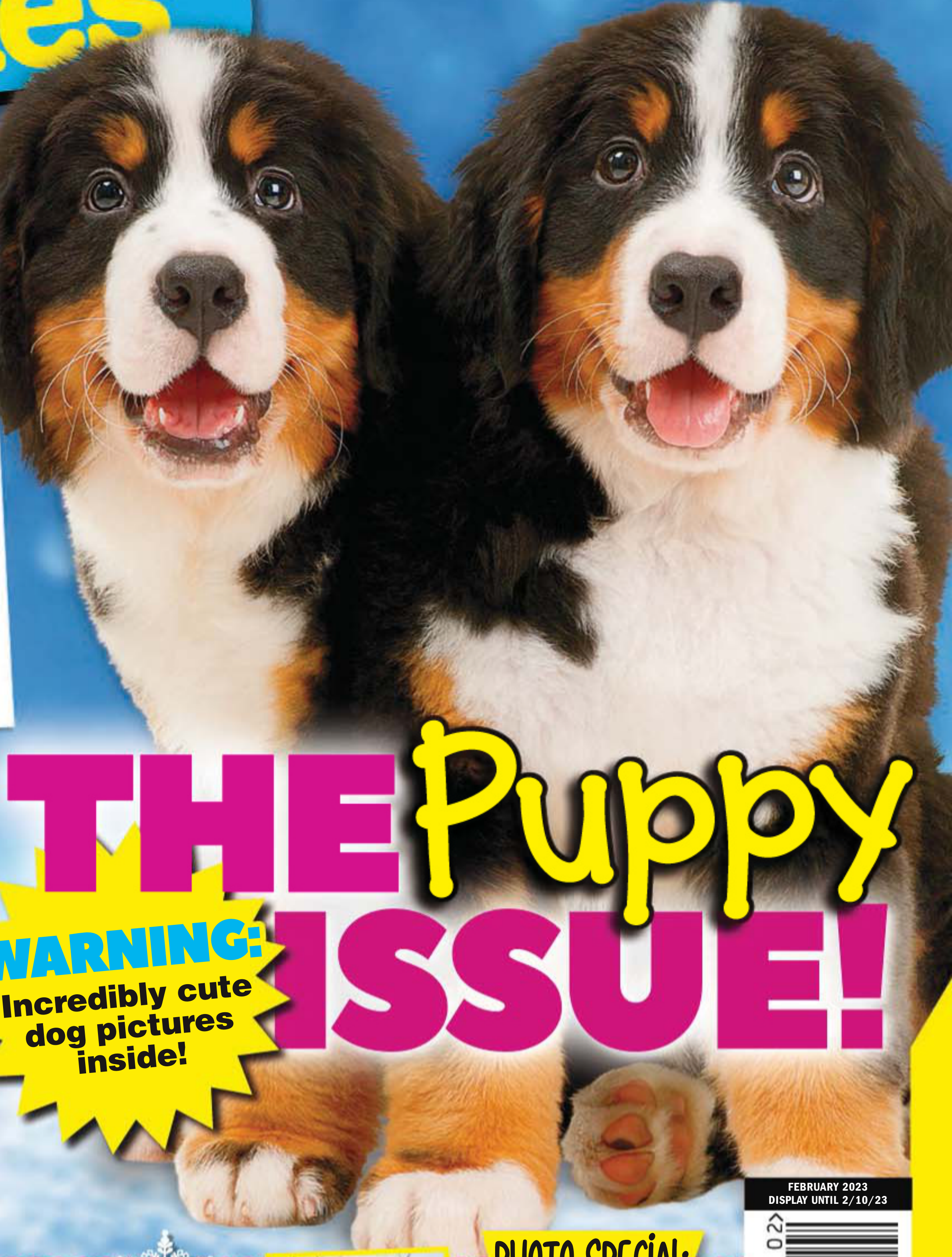
Animal Tales

The only magazine packed with the **most amazing animals!**

OMG! YOU WON'T BELIEVE THESE EMBARRASSING ANIMAL STORIES!



THE Puppy ISSUE!

WARNING: Incredibly cute dog pictures inside!

QUIZ: WHICH HOLIDAY MOVIE SHOULD YOU WATCH?

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR DOG IS TRYING TO TELL YOU!

10 WINTER ACTIVITIES TO TRY WITH YOUR PET!

PHOTO SPECIAL: ANIMALS BEHAVING BADLY!

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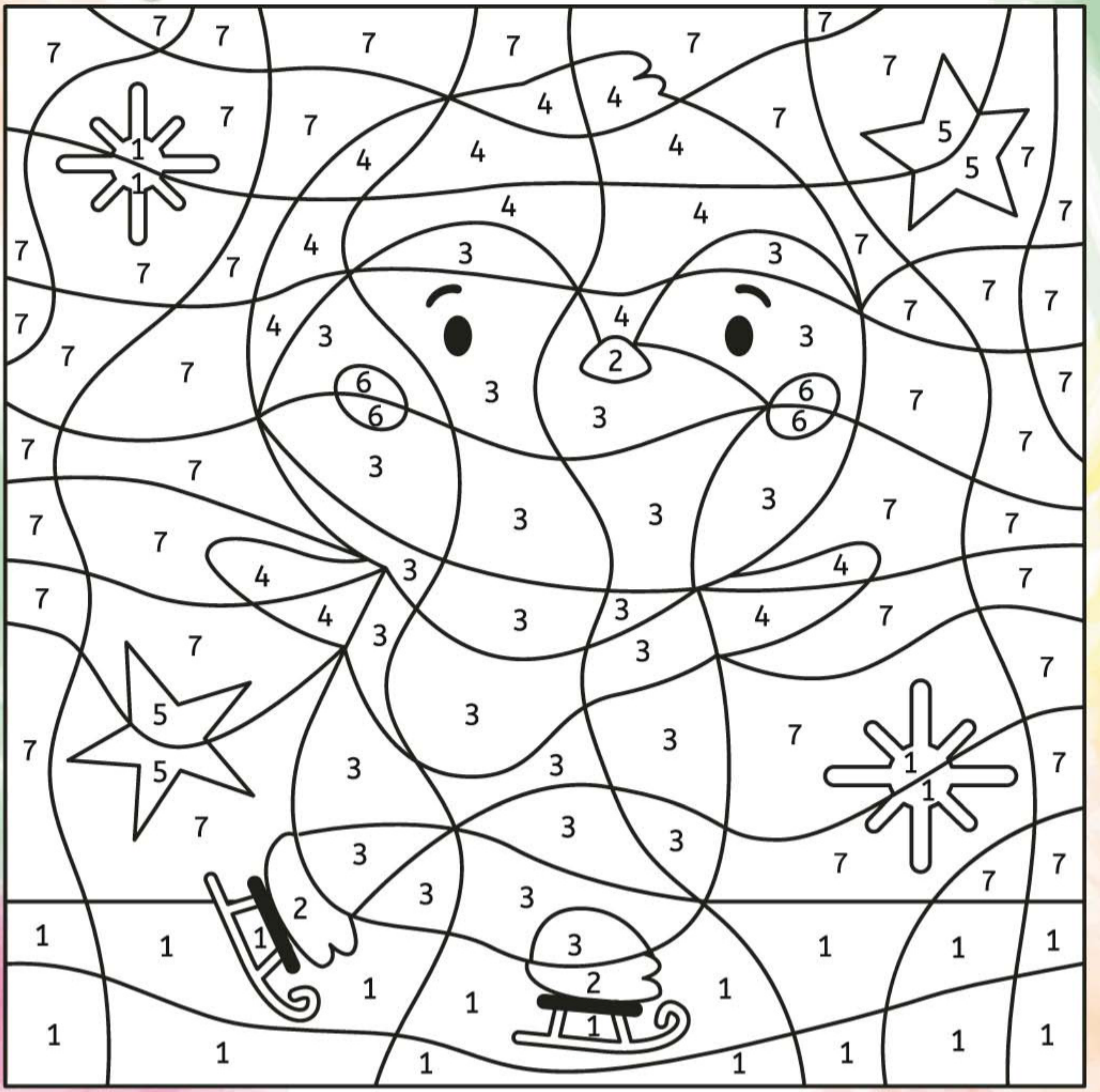
COLOR by NUMBER

Color in the penguin using the numbers as a key!



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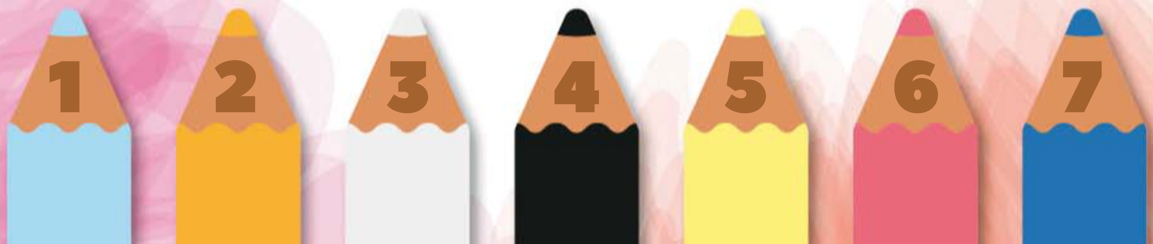

Animal Tales

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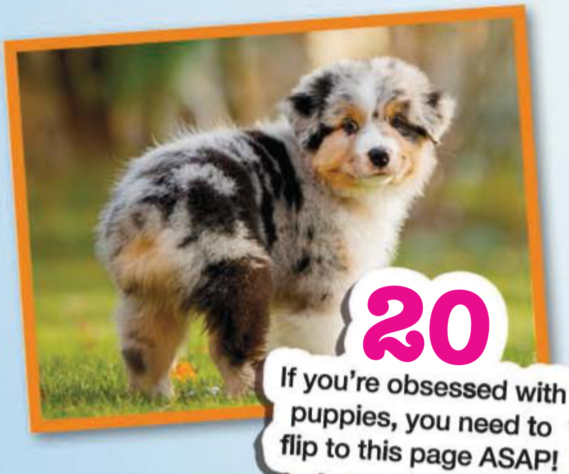

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If you're obsessed with puppies, you need to flip to this page ASAP!

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Making your holiday wish list? Check out our suggestions!

If you or a parent are on Facebook, be sure to "like" us at facebook.com/animaltalesmag. If you or a parent are on Instagram, follow us @animaltalesmag.

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We're teaching you how to draw holiday critters!

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Zoo KNEW?

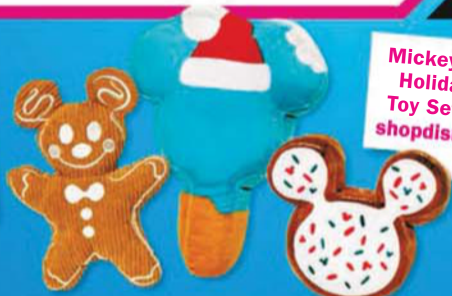
Animal news and fun facts!

I guess this is what friends are for!

Dogs are helping cheetahs from going extinct!

They're an unlikely pairing, but dogs in India are doing a lot to help cheetahs! There hasn't been a cheetah in India in over 70 years, and now eight of them were released into the wild at Kuno National Park. Cheetahs were once declared extinct in India due to hunting, so as the species is reintroduced, experts are working extra hard to keep them safe. That's where the dogs come in. The pups are trained to sniff out any sign of animal hunters, working to protect the cheetahs!

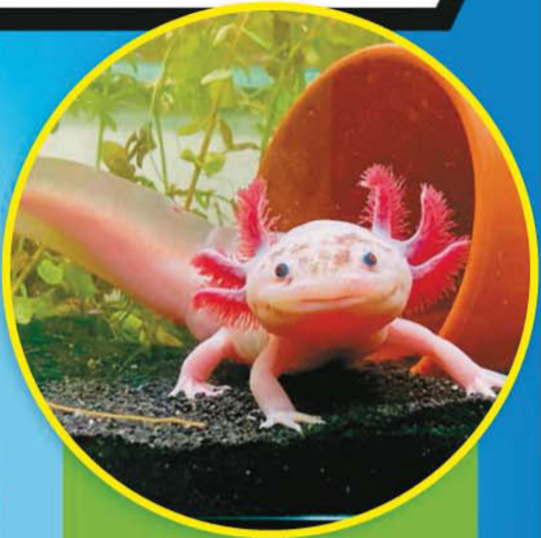
Gotta GET IT!



Mickey Mouse Holiday Dog Toy Set, $25, shopdisney.com

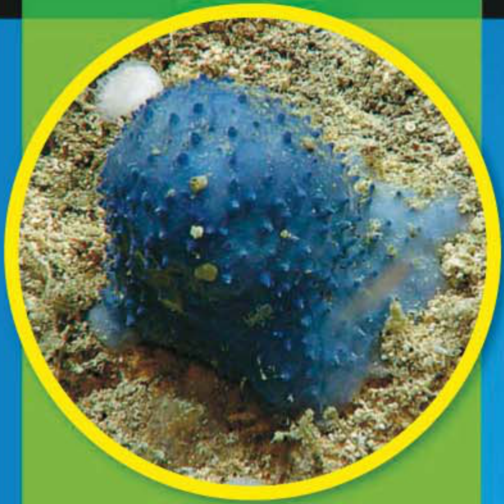
Holiday cheer for your pup!

Who says your dog can't have their own Christmas snacks? This chew toy set comes with a cookie, ice cream bar and gingerbread man for them to play with!



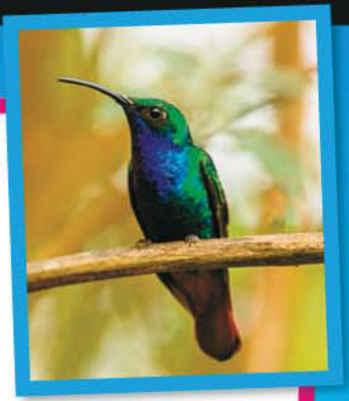
Axolotls can regrow their brains!

You've probably heard of animals being able to regrow a broken tail, but did you know axolotls can regrow their brains? Yep, if the amphibians have a head injury that causes them to lose part of their brain, they can regrow, or regenerate that part. It happens in three phases until their brain is fully grown back and works just like the old one. If that wasn't cool enough, axolotls can also regrow other boy parts, like their arms, legs, spine and heart!



No one knows what this blue blob sea creature is!

The bottom of the ocean floor is full of mysteries scientists have yet to discover, and every so often, one comes to the surface! Recently, experts have spotted this mysterious “blue goo” creature in the Caribbean, and no one knows what it is. Some are guessing that it may be coral or a sea sponge, but they won’t be sure until they get to work researching its identity. What do you think it is?

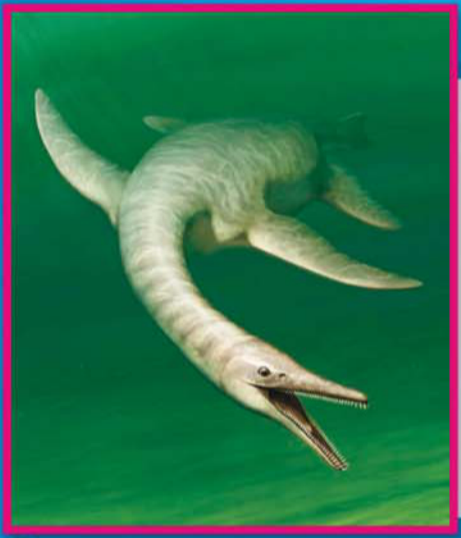


This endangered bird was just spotted for the first time in over 10 years!

This isn’t your typical hummingbird! Found in Columbia for the first time since 2010, this large hummingbird is called the Santa Marta sabrewing and is known for having iridescent blue feathers that shine in the sunlight. It is on the critically endangered species list. Its rediscovery is good news for bird lovers around the world, because it has long been a part of ‘Top 10 Most Wanted Lost Birds’ list!

Ant queens live 500% times longer than worker ants!

Ant queens really do rule their colonies! While worker ants live for around eight months, ant queens live for over three years! How does the queen live for so much longer? Scientists have recently discovered that it has to do with the food she eats. Ant queens eat more because they are responsible for laying the eggs for their colony. The extra food they eat gives them an extra protein that slows down how fast they grow old. So, while the worker ants around her are quickly aging, she’s slowly getting old and that’s why she lives longer!



This sea monster used to live in the United States!

Fossils reveal that this Plesiosaur once lived in the seas of what is now Wyoming! Its scientific name is Serpentisuchops pfisterae, which means "snaky crocface,” and we bet you can guess why it got that name! The marine reptile was 23 feet long and had a snake-like neck and a crocodile-like jaw. Paleontologists believe it would eat things like fish and small animals that lived underwater.

PREVIOUS PAGE: BARBARA ASH/SHUTTERSTOCK; AXOLOTLOWNER/SHUTTERSTOCK. THIS SPREAD: IMAGE COURTESY OF NOAA OCEAN EXPLORATION, VOYAGE TO THE RIDGE 2022; JIRI HREBICEK/SHUTTERSTOCK; FREER/SHUTTERSTOCK; NATHAN E. ROGERS; AYMERIC HOUSTIN, FAU; STEVE BYLAND/SHUTTERSTOCK

This robot looks after penguins in Antarctica!

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) researchers in Antarctica have special help monitoring a colony of around 20,000 emperor penguins! ECHO is a yellow, four-wheeled robot that helps count and keep track of the penguins. Why is this important? ECHO is part of a program called “Monitor the health of the Antarctic marine ecosystems using the emperor penguin as a sentinel,” or MARE. The program researches penguins to keep up with the health of Antarctica’s ecosystem!

Did you like my song?

Frogs create bands to find mates!

When a male wood frog is looking for a mate, finding a group of frog friends to sing with is important! You see, frogs make a singing sound to get a mate’s attention, but not all frog songs are the same. A female frog is more likely to hop by a group of frogs singing together in unison than she is to hop by one frog by itself or a group of frogs that don’t sound so good together!

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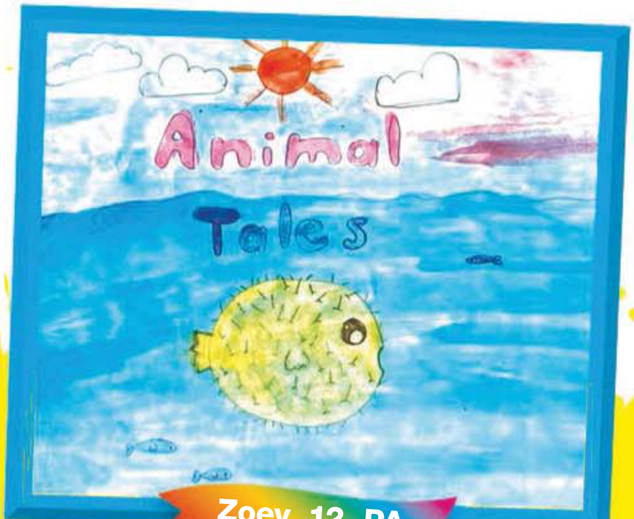
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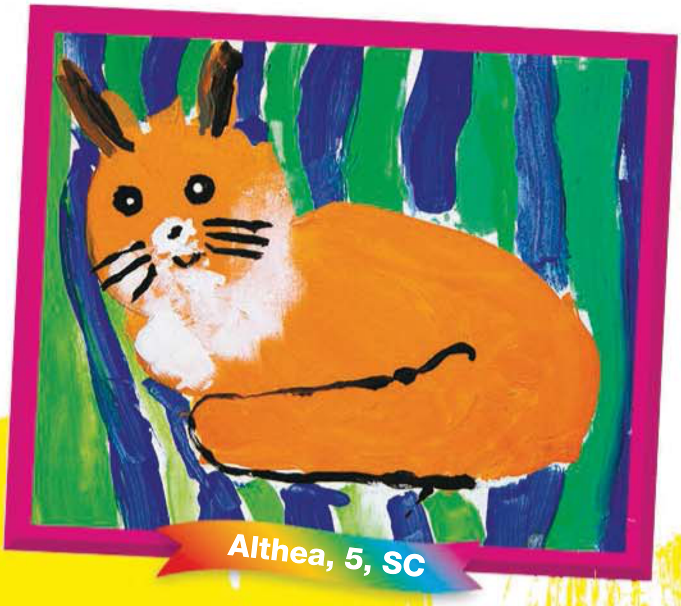

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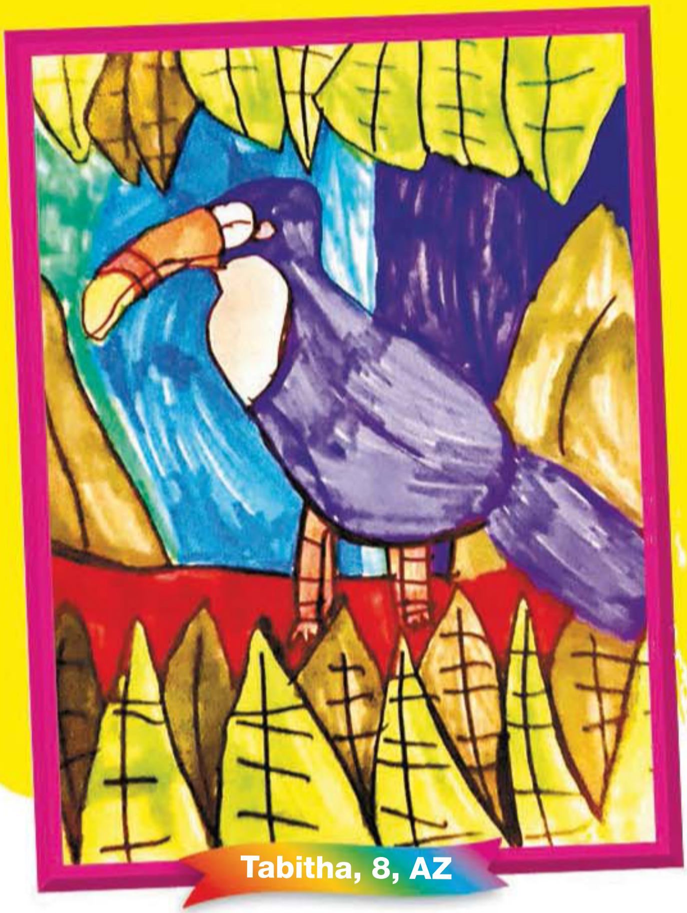

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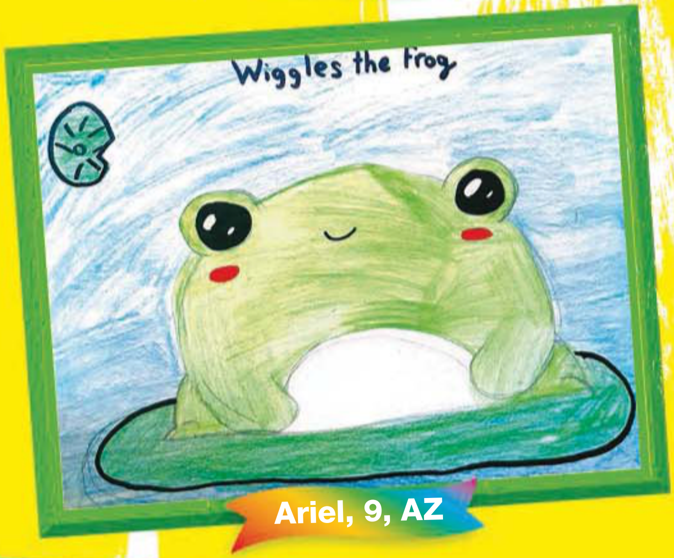
Wiggles the frog

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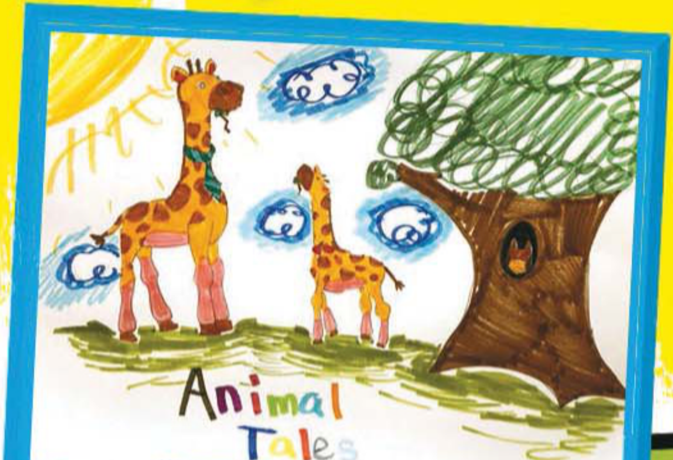
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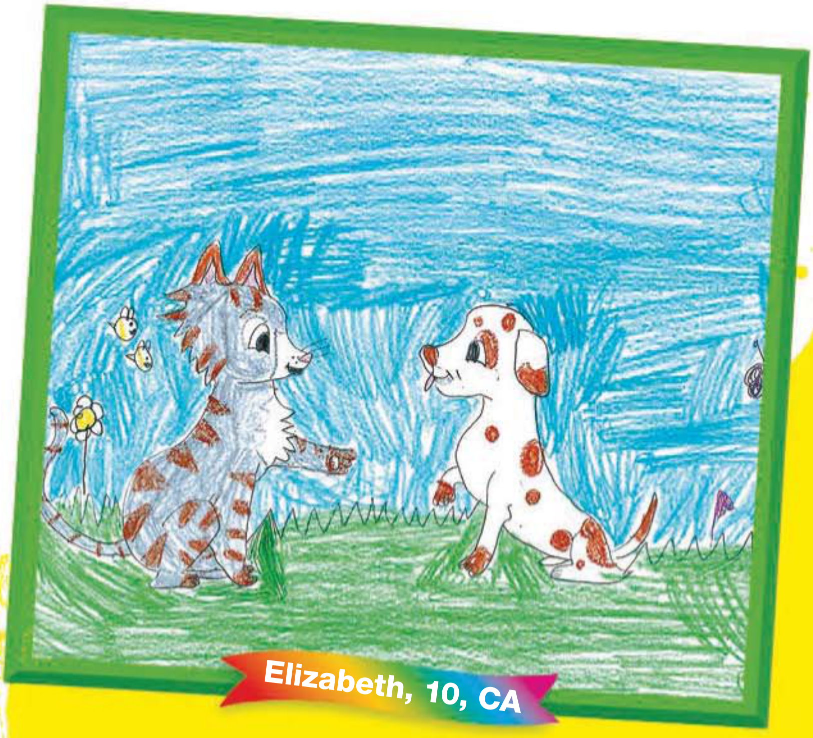

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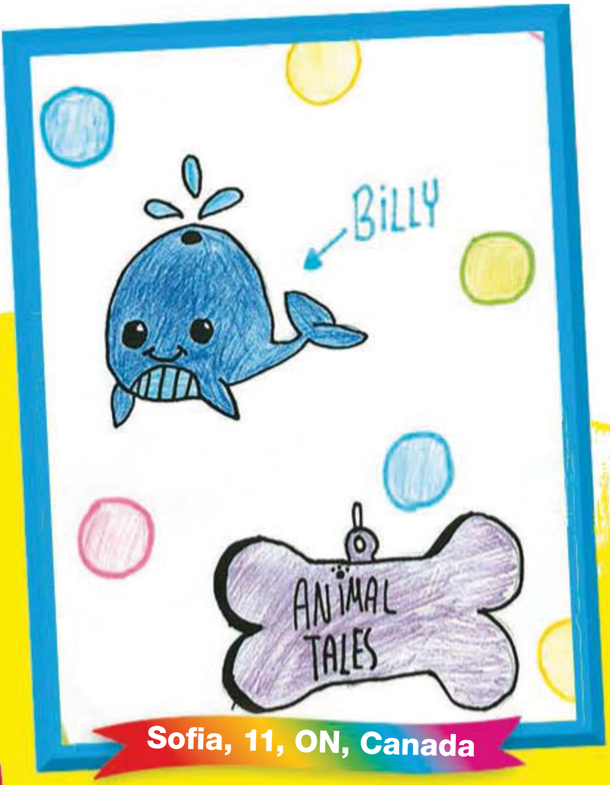

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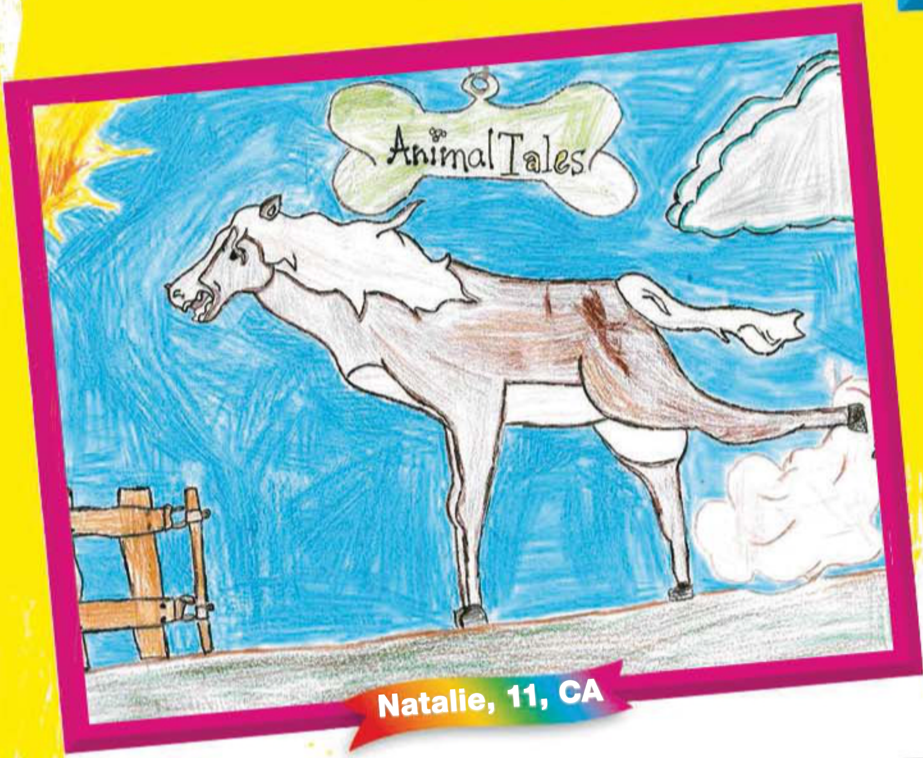


Natalie, 11, CA

SEND US YOUR ARTWORK!

Draw a picture of an animal, and it could wind up in our next issue! Send your drawing and first name, age and state to mail@animaltalesmag.com or *Animal Tales*, Express Yourself, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004

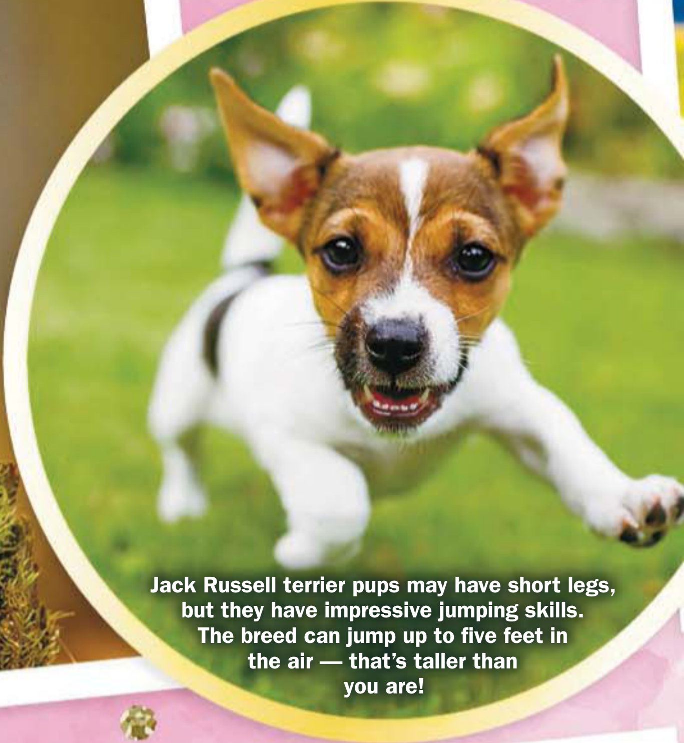
Yourself

at all of your adorable animal drawings!

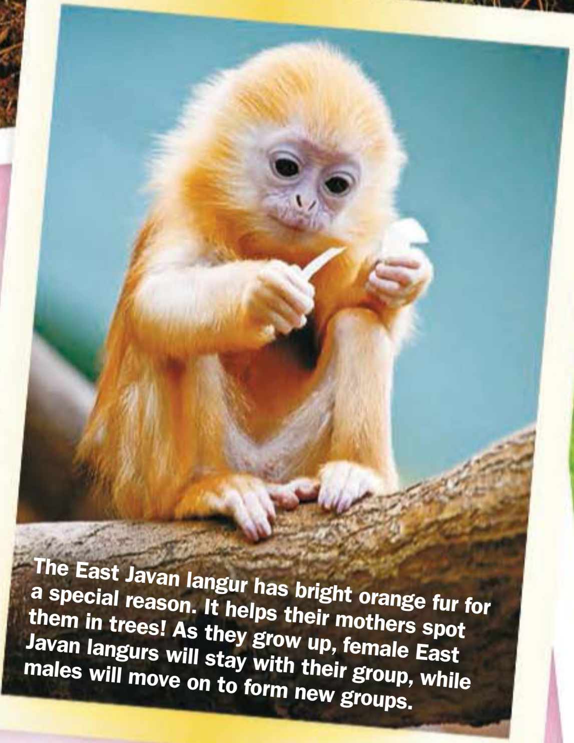
Animal BABIES

We can't get enough of these adorable little ones!

When foxes are young, they need lots of help from their parents because they can't hear, walk or see. Their moms will keep them close by and look after them, while their dads go out into the wild to hunt for food.



Jack Russell terrier pups may have short legs, but they have impressive jumping skills. The breed can jump up to five feet in the air — that's taller than you are!



The East Javan langur has bright orange fur for a special reason. It helps their mothers spot them in trees! As they grow up, female East Javan langurs will stay with their group, while males will move on to form new groups.

Capybara pups are kept safe by a group of 10 to 30 other capybaras! Female capybaras form groups where they help each other take care of their babies by feeding them and keeping an eye out for predators.

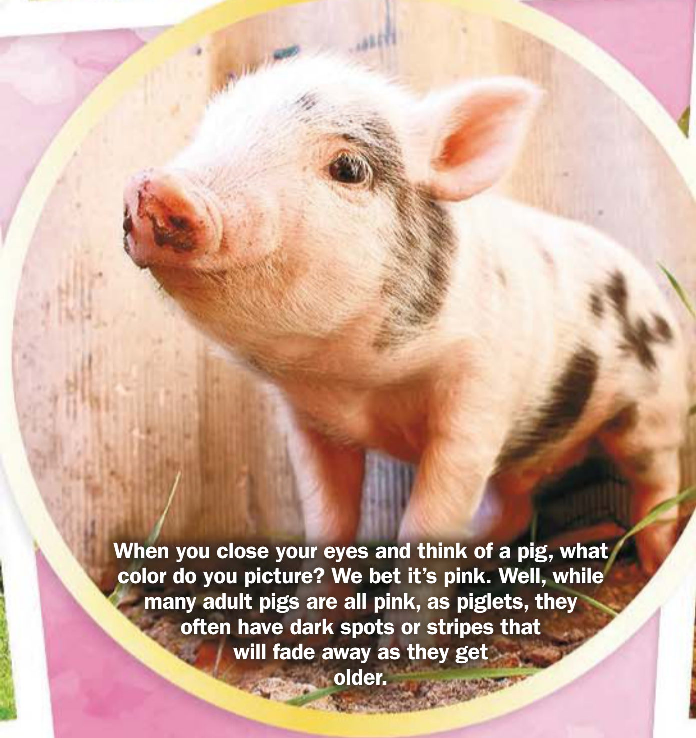
ROBERT ADAMEC/SHUTTERSTOCK; BASTIAAN SCHUIT/SHUTTERSTOCK; ERICA HOLLINGSHEAD/SHUTTERSTOCK; DARREN BAKER/SHUTTERSTOCK; MERITENS PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; MARCEL STRELOW/SHUTTERSTOCK; SERGII FIGURNYI/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALIZADA STUDIOS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Foals are quick learners! They can gallop alongside their mothers when they're just one day old. They're also born with very long legs that are nearly the length of their mom's leg!

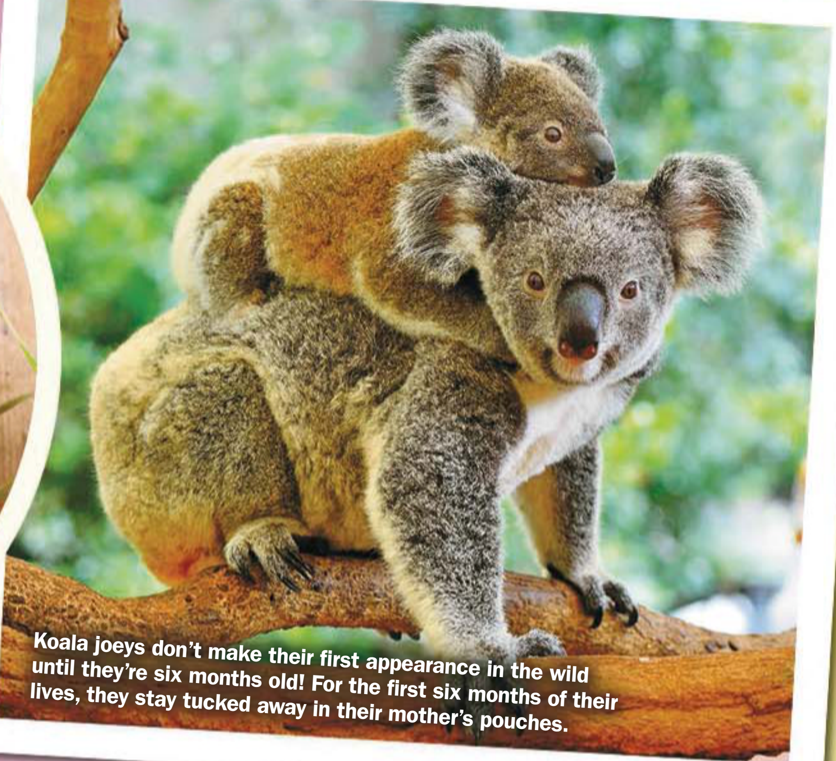
SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your baby animal, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com or send it to *Animal Tales*, Animal Babies, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

One surprising fact about cocker spaniel pups? They're sensitive dogs! They're sweet, like to cuddle and tend to dislike playing rough. They make great family pets because they love being around children.



When you close your eyes and think of a pig, what color do you picture? We bet it's pink. Well, while many adult pigs are all pink, as piglets, they often have dark spots or stripes that will fade away as they get older.



Koala joeys don't make their first appearance in the wild until they're six months old! For the first six months of their lives, they stay tucked away in their mother's pouches.

A Walrus' TALE!

Use the word bank to help you label the body parts of this marine mammal!

BODY PARTS:

BLUBBER: The thick layer of fat covering a walrus' body — except its flippers — that keeps it warm in frigid temperatures

FRONT FLIPPER: To move around on land, walruses turn both of these at 90-degree angles to steer their bodies

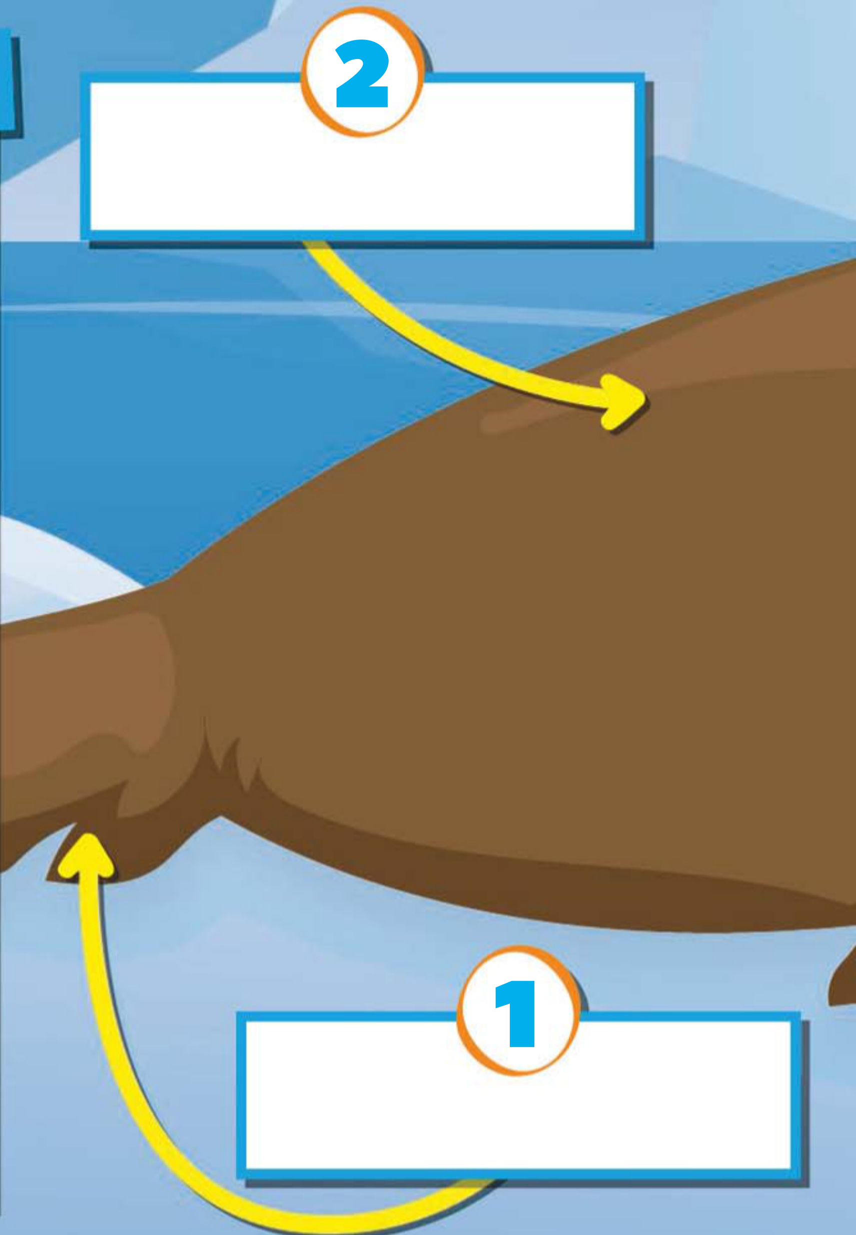
HIND FLIPPER: Located in the back of body, walruses have two of these limbs to help them move through water

MYSTACIAL VIBRISSAE: Sensitive whiskers used to locate prey

MUZZLE: The protruding part of the walrus' face that includes the mouth, jaw and nostrils

PHARYNGEAL POUCH: An elastic pocket found on both sides of a walrus' esophagus that holds gallons of air, so they can stay underwater for a while

TUSKS: A set of strong, protruding teeth that allows a walrus to dig holes in the ice and haul its large body out of the water



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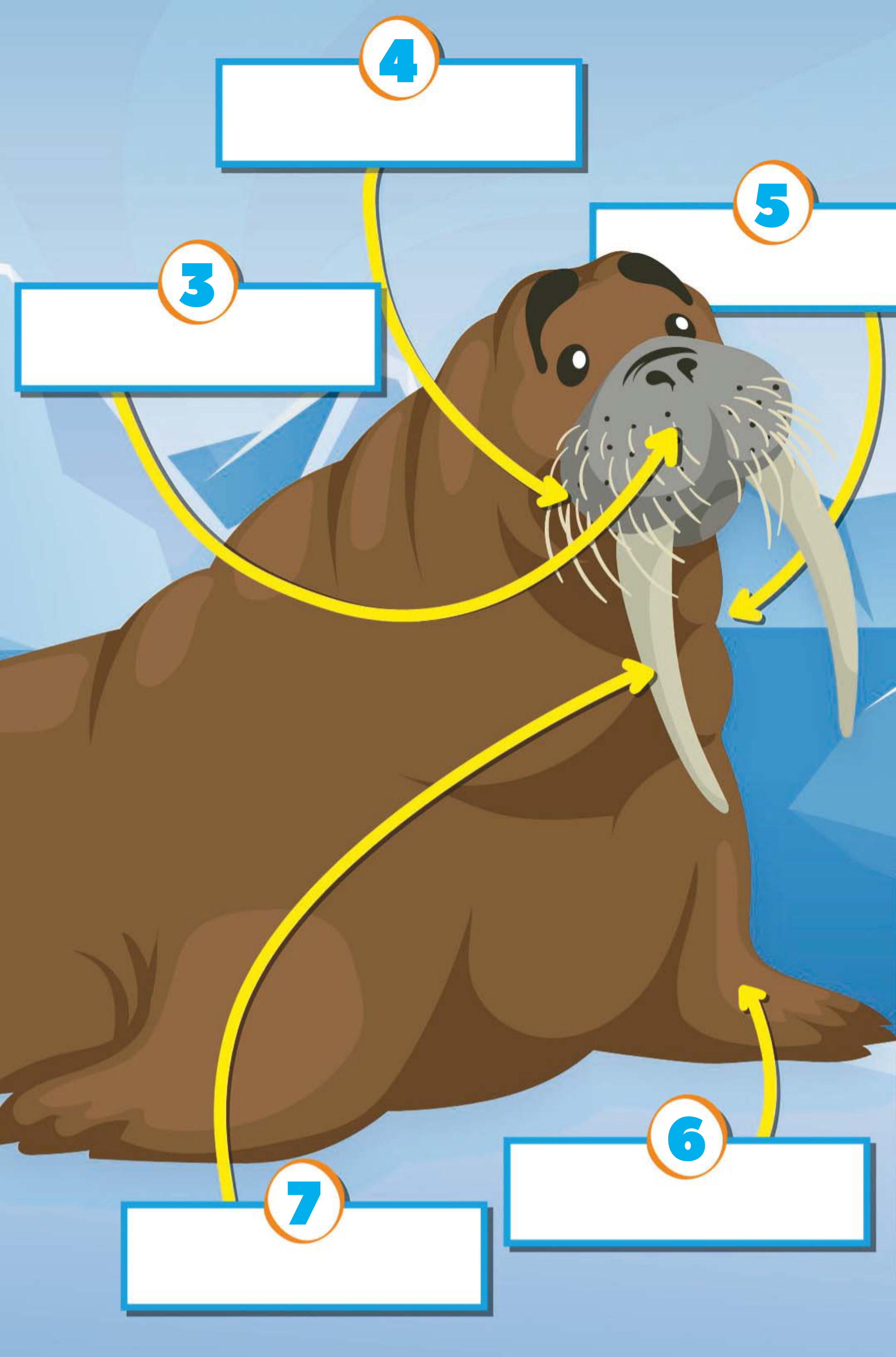
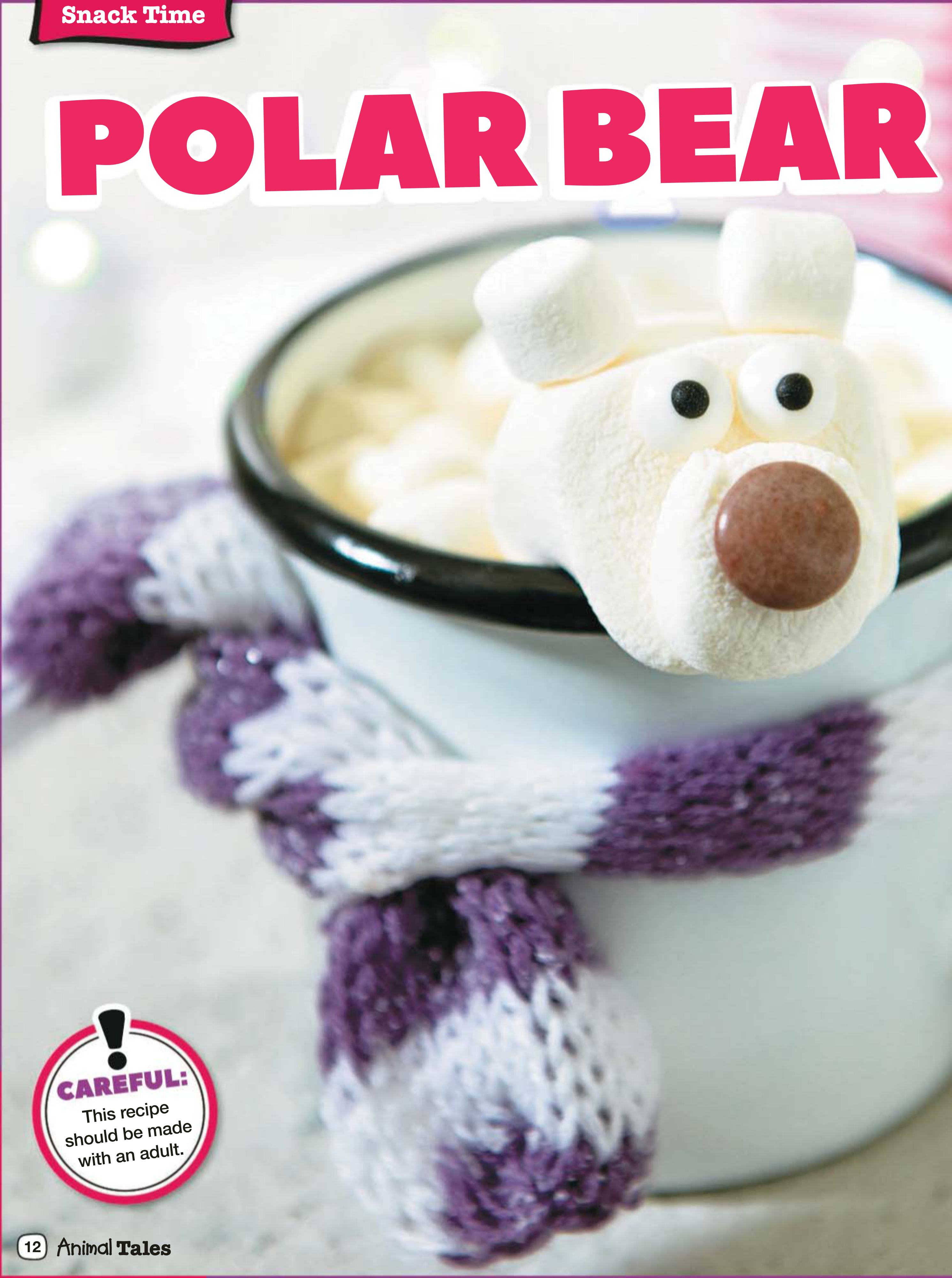


ANSWERS: 1. Hind flipper 2. Blubber 3. Muzzle 4. Mystacial vibrissae 5. Pharyngeal pouches 6. Front flipper 7. Tusks

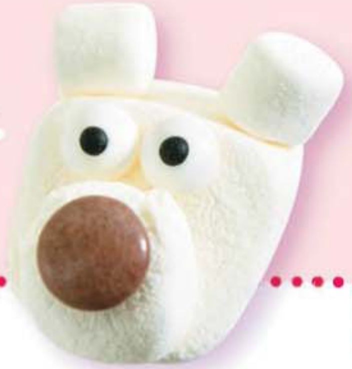
POLAR BEAR



CAREFUL: This recipe should be made with an adult.

HOT COCOA!

Chill out with the cozy drink this winter!



Ingredients:

- 4 cups milk of your choice
- ½ cup white chocolate chips
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 bag mini marshmallows
- 1 bag regular marshmallows
- 1 tube white decorating icing
- 1 container candy eyeballs
- 4 chocolate M&M's

Directions:

① Start by making four polar bear heads for each of your mugs. Lay a large marshmallow down horizontally. On one end, use the decorating icing to attach two mini marshmallow ears on top of it and two candy eyes underneath. Use a knife to cut a circular muzzle (found under the eyes) from a large marshmallow. Attach it to the face with the icing, then add the M&M nose to it. Let the icing set.

② Ask a parent to help you pour the milk and vanilla into a medium saucepan. Heat over medium heat for about 5 minutes or until the milk mixture begins to steam.

③ Once the milk steams, it's time to add in your white chocolate chips. Use a whisk to stir them into the milk until they're completed melted and combined.

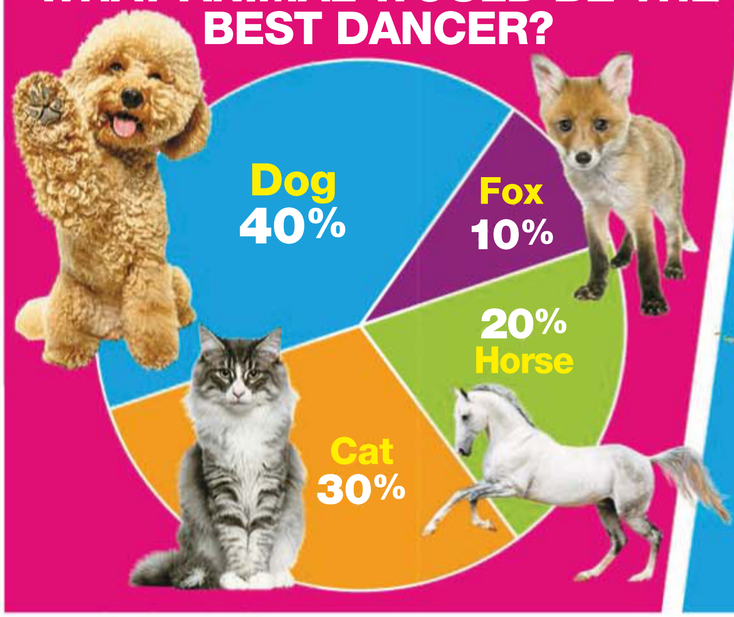
④ Pour the white hot chocolate into four mugs and add a bunch of mini marshmallows on top. Press a polar bear marshmallow onto the edge of each mug before you start sipping!

DARIA MEDVEDEVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

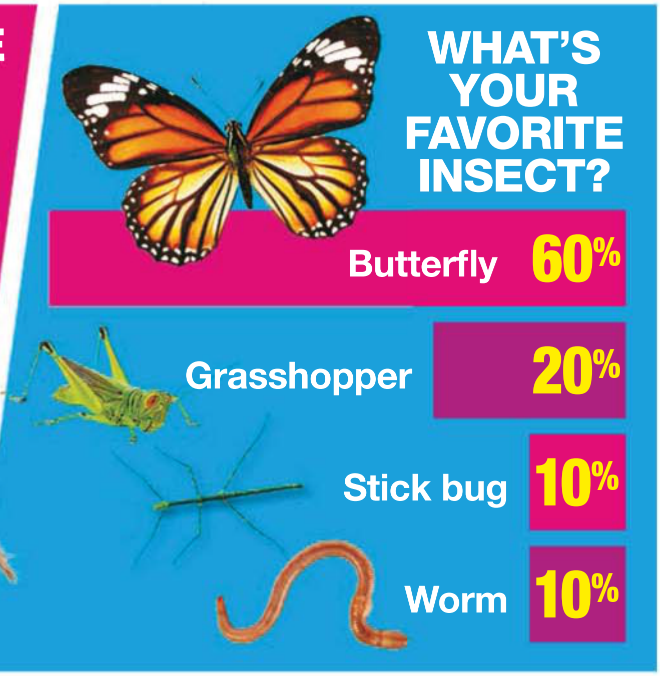
You SAID IT!

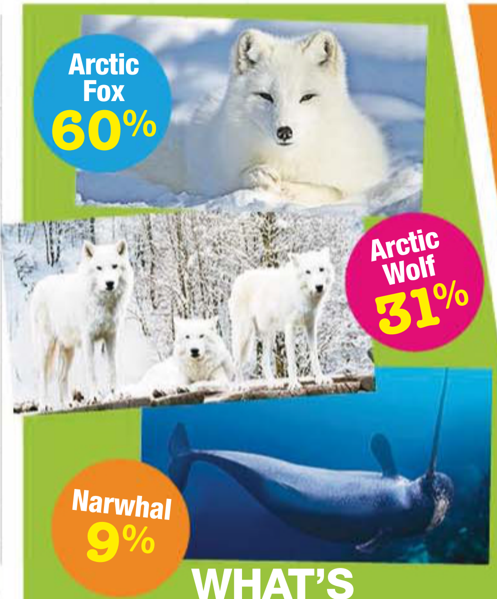
Check out the results of our latest poll!

WHAT ANIMAL WOULD BE THE BEST DANCER?



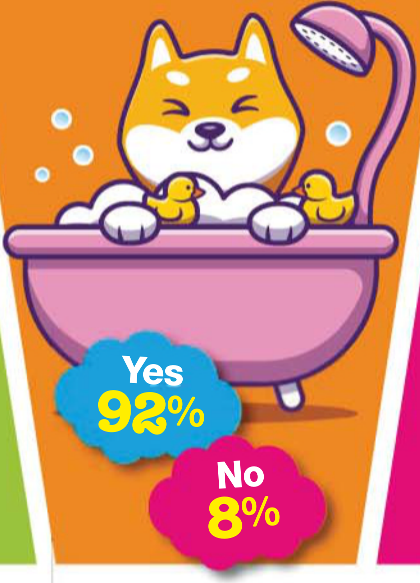
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE INSECT?

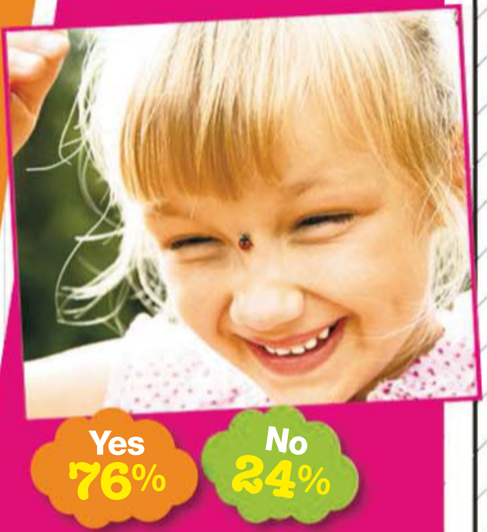




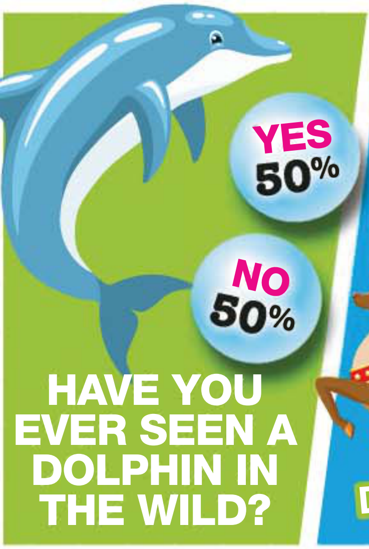
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ARCTIC ANIMAL?

HAVE YOU EVER HELPED GIVE YOUR PET A BATH?

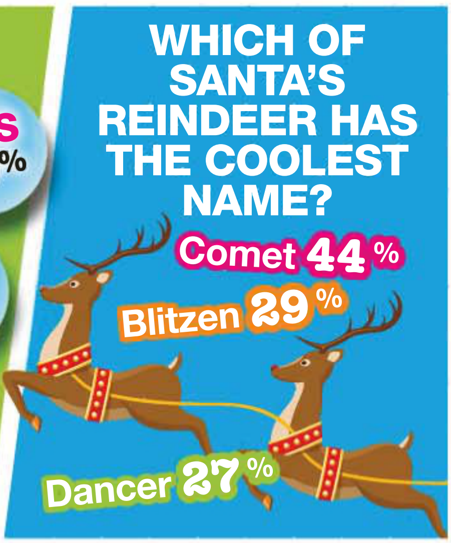




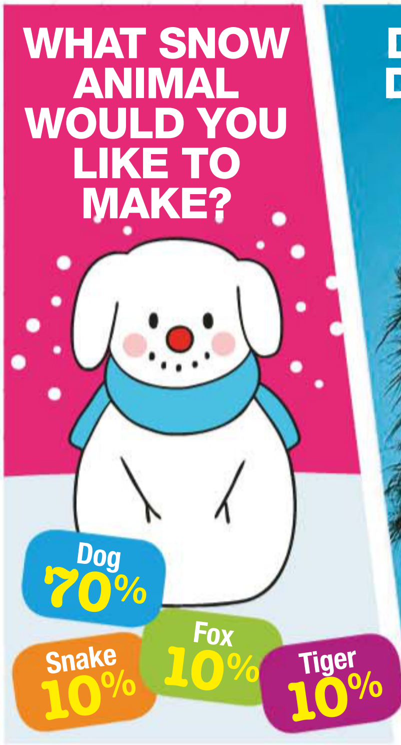
HAS A LADYBUG EVER LANDED ON YOU?



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A DOLPHIN IN THE WILD?



WHICH OF SANTA'S REINDEER HAS THE COOLEST NAME?



WHAT SNOW ANIMAL WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE?

DO YOU THINK DOGS AND CAT GET ALONG?

WOULD YOU RATHER MOVE AS SLOW AS A SLOTH OR AS FAST AS A CHEETAH?

Fast as a cheetah 100%

MASTER1305/SHUTTERSTOCK; ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); OLGA I/SHUTTERSTOCK; CYNOCLUB/SHUTTERSTOCK; VLADIMIRKARP/SHUTTERSTOCK; MR. SUTTIPON YAKHAM/SHUTTERSTOCK; RICHARD PETERSON/SHUTTERSTOCK; L-N/SHUTTERSTOCK; EWA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; DOTTED YETI/SHUTTERSTOCK; CATALYST LABS/SHUTTERSTOCK; BY/SHUTTERSTOCK; KINGVECTOR/SHUTTERSTOCK; MAKKURO GL/SHUTTERSTOCK; SAWITREE PROMPHITHUKKUL/SHUTTERSTOCK; ERIK LAM/SHUTTERSTOCK; STU PORTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!

What animal do you think is strongest?

What's your pet's favorite food?

Have you ever gone bird watching?

Would you rather have a pet unicorn or a pet dragon?

Does your pet like to wear pet clothes?

Which pocket pet do you prefer: hamsters or guinea pigs?

What's your favorite type of bear?

What animal do you see the most in your backyard?

Are you a boy or a girl? Age:

CUT OUT AND MAIL TO:
Animal Tales, You Said It!, 4 New York Plaza,
2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004,
email your answers to mail@animaltalesmag.com.

Go on a WINTER NATURE WALK!

Heading outside this winter? Bring this checklist along and try to spot each of these things!

- ○ Animal tracks in the snow
- ○ Winter berries
- ○ A blue bird
- ○ A tree without leaves
- ○ A feather
- ○ A raccoon
- ○ A leaf still on a branch
- ○ A tree that looks like a Christmas tree
- ○ A bird feeder
- ○ A deer
- ○ A hole dug by an animal
- ○ A squirrel
- ○ An icicle
- ○ A hawk in the sky
- ○ A pinecone
- ○ A dog
- ○ Animal tracks in the dirt
- ○ A cardinal
- ○ A frozen puddle
- ○ A bird's nest
- ○ Yellow snow
- ○ An insect
- ○ Moving water
- ○ An acorn
- ○ A rabbit

ANCHALEE AR/SHUTTERSTOCK

What's your dog TRYING TO TELL YOU?

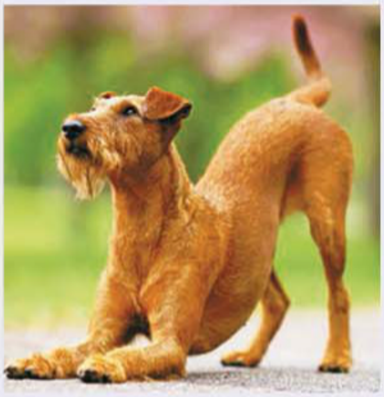
See if you can decode your furry friend's body language!

1. If your pup waits at the door for you, it means:

A. They missed you
B. They're trying to escape
C. They're embarrassed

2. Seeing a dog in this position tells you they're:

A. Angry
B. Ready to play
C. Nervous

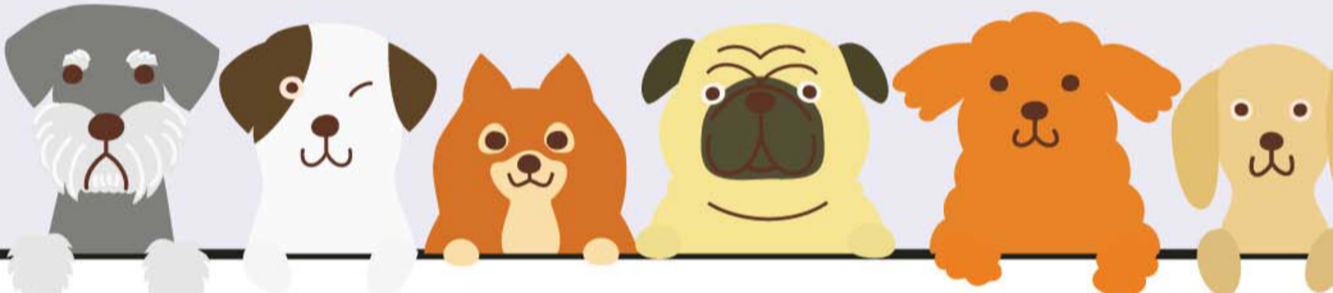


3. When a dog lets you rub their belly, it shows that they:

A. Are hungry
B. Are sleepy
C. Trust you

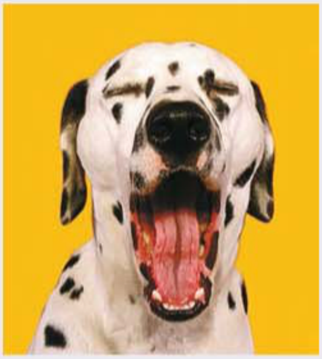
4. Why do dogs tilt their heads to the side?

A. To hear you more clearly
B. Because they're confused
C. To catch your attention



5. What does it mean if your dog wants to sleep in your bed?

A. They're having nightmares
B. They want to be close to you
C. They're starving



6. Dogs mostly yawn when they're:

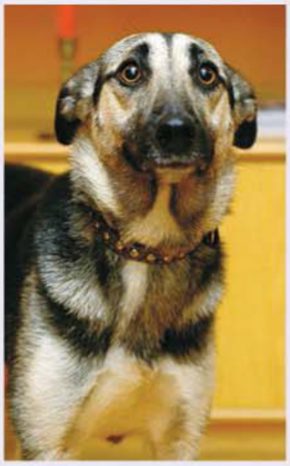
A. Playing
B. Stressed out
C. Bored

7. When a dog waves its tail back and forth, it's likely because they're:

A. Excited
B. Jealous
C. Anxious

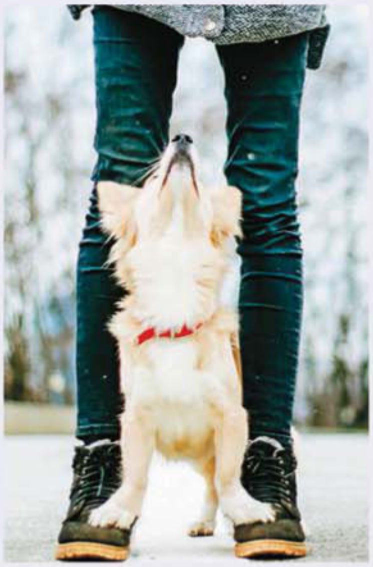
8. Dogs may pant because they're feeling:

A. Too cold
B. Too hot
C. Too tired



9. Ears that are drooping back like this are a sign a dog's:

A. Scared
B. Ready to play
C. Hungry



10. If your dog stands between your legs, they're:

A. Staking their claim on you
B. Mad at you
C. Trying to annoy you

Answers: 1. A; 2. B; 3. C; 4. A; 5. B; 6. B; 7. A; 8. B; 9. A; 10. A

SMIT/SHUTTERSTOCK; EUDYPTULA/SHUTTERSTOCK; BRAD K COVINGTON/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANNETTE SHAFF/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANNA HOYCHUK/SHUTTERSTOCK; MARTIN GALLAGHER/SHUTTERSTOCK; GOODFOCUSED/SHUTTERSTOCK; CSANAD KISS/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANNA KRIVITSKAYA/SHUTTERSTOCK; OVCHINNIKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

ALL ABOUT PUPPIES!

Every dog lover should know these facts!

The Unites States has more dogs than any other country with over 75 million. Wow!

Newborn puppies don't open their eyes for about 10–15 days.

THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR DOGS IS CANIS LUPUS FAMILIARIS.

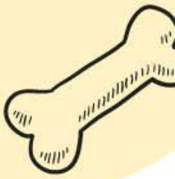
Scientists have discovered that dogs dream like humans do. You can tell your pup is dreaming if they're twitching in their sleep.

The first sense that puppies develop is touch because their moms will lick and nuzzle them right away.

DRAGON_FANG/SHUTTERSTOCK; JEANETTE VIRGINIA GOH/SHUTTERSTOCK; EVA_BLANCO/SHUTTERSTOCK; OTSPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; WILLEECOLE PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; SWITLANA SONYASHNA/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANNORAK NK/SHUTTERSTOCK; ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK; VALERIY VOLKONSKIY/SHUTTERSTOCK; EWA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; NEW AFRICA/SHUTTERSTOCK; DORA ZETT/SHUTTERSTOCK

Dogs are omnivorous, which means they eat a combination of plants and animal meat.

A dog's sense of smell is 1,000,000 times better than a human's.



PUPPIES NEED TO PLAY. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

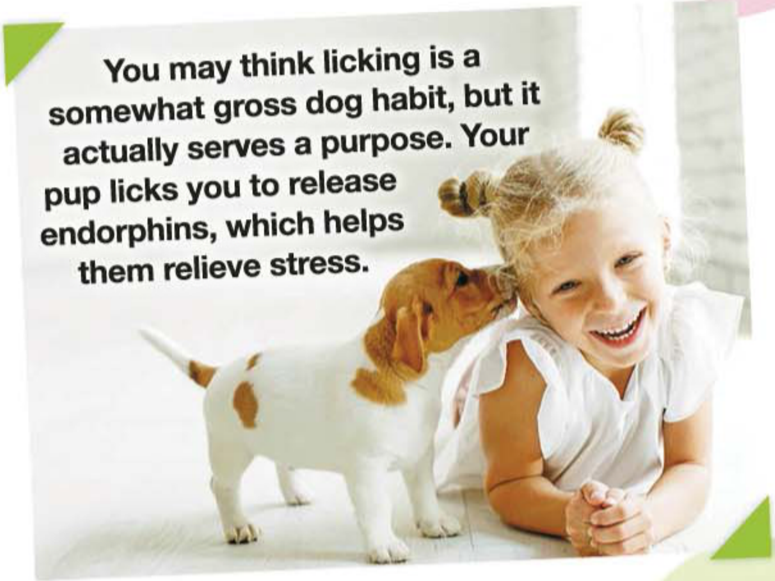
Puppies have baby teeth, just like you do! Their adult teeth grow in very quickly though — when they're about 4 months old.

It's totally normal for puppies to sleep up to 15 hours per day.

Did you know that most puppies are considered adults at only 1 year old?

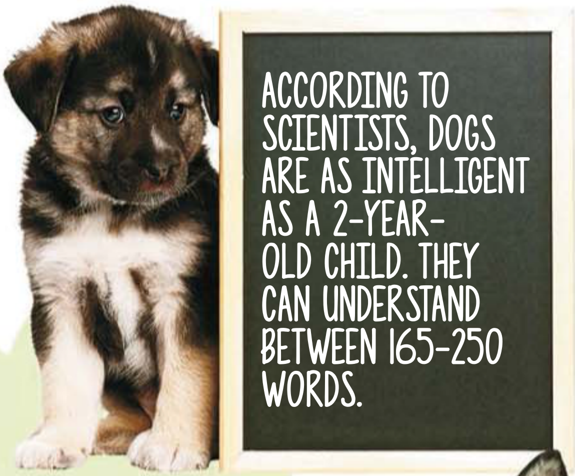
PUPPIES' COATS OF FUR OFTEN CHANGE AS THEY GROW UP. SOMETIMES THE COLOR CHANGES AND OTHER TIMES THEY DEVELOP SPOTS.

Generally, dogs don't really like getting hugs from their humans. Yeah, it's kind of a bummer, but they'd prefer belly rubs.



You may think licking is a somewhat gross dog habit, but it actually serves a purpose. Your pup licks you to release endorphins, which helps them relieve stress.

Dogs don't breathe the same way we do. They bring air in their nostrils and then out through the slits on the sides of the nose. This helps them bring in new scents constantly.



ACCORDING TO SCIENTISTS, DOGS ARE AS INTELLIGENT AS A 2-YEAR-OLD CHILD. THEY CAN UNDERSTAND BETWEEN 165-250 WORDS.

Dogs see colors very differently than we do. They see most things in shades of blue and yellow. That's why experts recommend buying pups blue toys.

HUMANS SWEAT TO COOL THEMSELVES OFF WHEN THEY'RE HOT, BUT DOGS DON'T DO THAT. THEY PANT INSTEAD.

The Life Stages of a Puppy

Neonatal (0-2 months)

Puppies are totally dependant on their mothers during this first development stage.

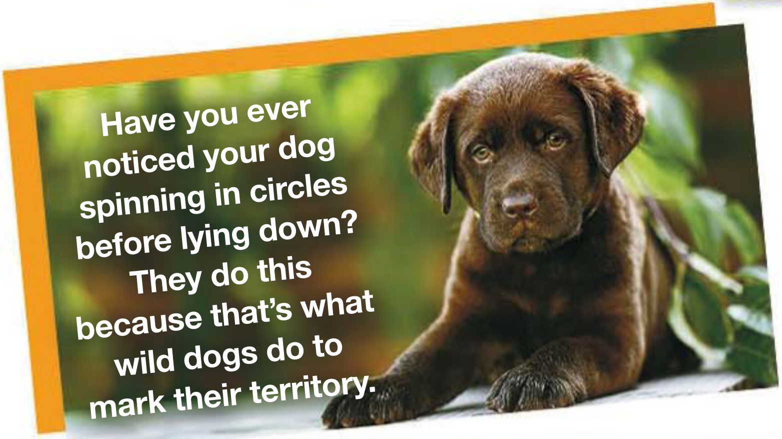
Transitional (2-4 weeks)

Pups can now open their eyes and are beginning to hear and smell. They can also stand and bark.

OTSPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); NINA BUDAY/SHUTTERSTOCK; SIGMA_S/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANURAK PONGPATIMET/SHUTTERSTOCK; JORDI CALVERA/SHUTTERSTOCK; DOROTTYA MATHE/SHUTTERSTOCK; ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); INTARAPONG/SHUTTERSTOCK; DENISNATA/SHUTTERSTOCK; NATALIA FEDOSOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; HANNAMARIAH/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALEXKATKOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

There's a reason dog food looks unappetizing to us, while they love it. Dogs only have about 1,700 taste buds, and we have up to 10,000.

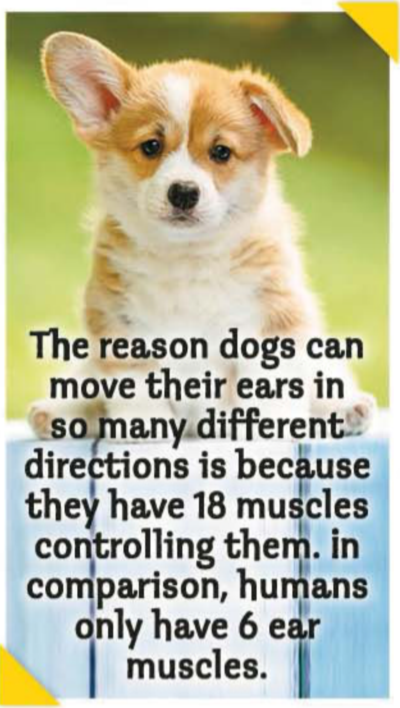
JUST LIKE YOU'RE RIGHT-HANDED OR LEFT-HANDED, YOUR DOG IS LEFT-PAWED OR RIGHT-PAWED. THEY LEAD WITH ONE PAW.



Have you ever noticed your dog spinning in circles before lying down? They do this because that's what wild dogs do to mark their territory.

Dogs have proved to be part of a small group of creatures who show kindness towards others even if they aren't getting anything in reward.

Dogs give you their signature puppy dog eyes on purpose because they've learned that humans respond to it.



The reason dogs can move their ears in so many different directions is because they have 18 muscles controlling them. in comparison, humans only have 6 ear muscles.

STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT DOGS KNOW HOW HUMANS ARE FEELING FROM THEIR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS. THEY'LL RESPOND TO YOUR SHIFTING MOODS.

Socialization (3-12 weeks)

In four weeks, puppies' sight is well-developed. They learn to play and they learn about social structures from their littermates.

Ranking (3-6 months)

They start to understand who's in charge, like an older sibling, mom or their human. Pups also starting teething and become more aware of their surroundings.

Adolescence (6-18 months)

This is basically a puppy's teenager phase. They tend to start challenging their humans more in this phase.

FEROCIO

Which wild cat will win?

DIRECTIONS: For each bracketed pair, pick your favorite feline. Repeat with each pair on both pages until you discover your answer in the middle.

LION
VS
JAGUAR

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:

SERVAL
VS
CARACAL

Your pick:

VS

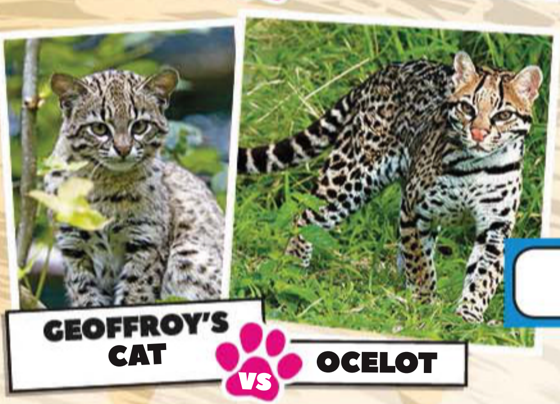
Your pick:

LEOPARD
VS
COUGAR

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:


GEOFFROY'S CAT
VS
OCELOT

Your pick:

US FELINE SHOWDOWN

TIGER
VS
CHEETAH

Your pick:

Your pick:

ONCILLA
VS
BOBCAT

Your pick:

Your pick:

Your pick:

SAND CAT
VS
PALLAS CAT

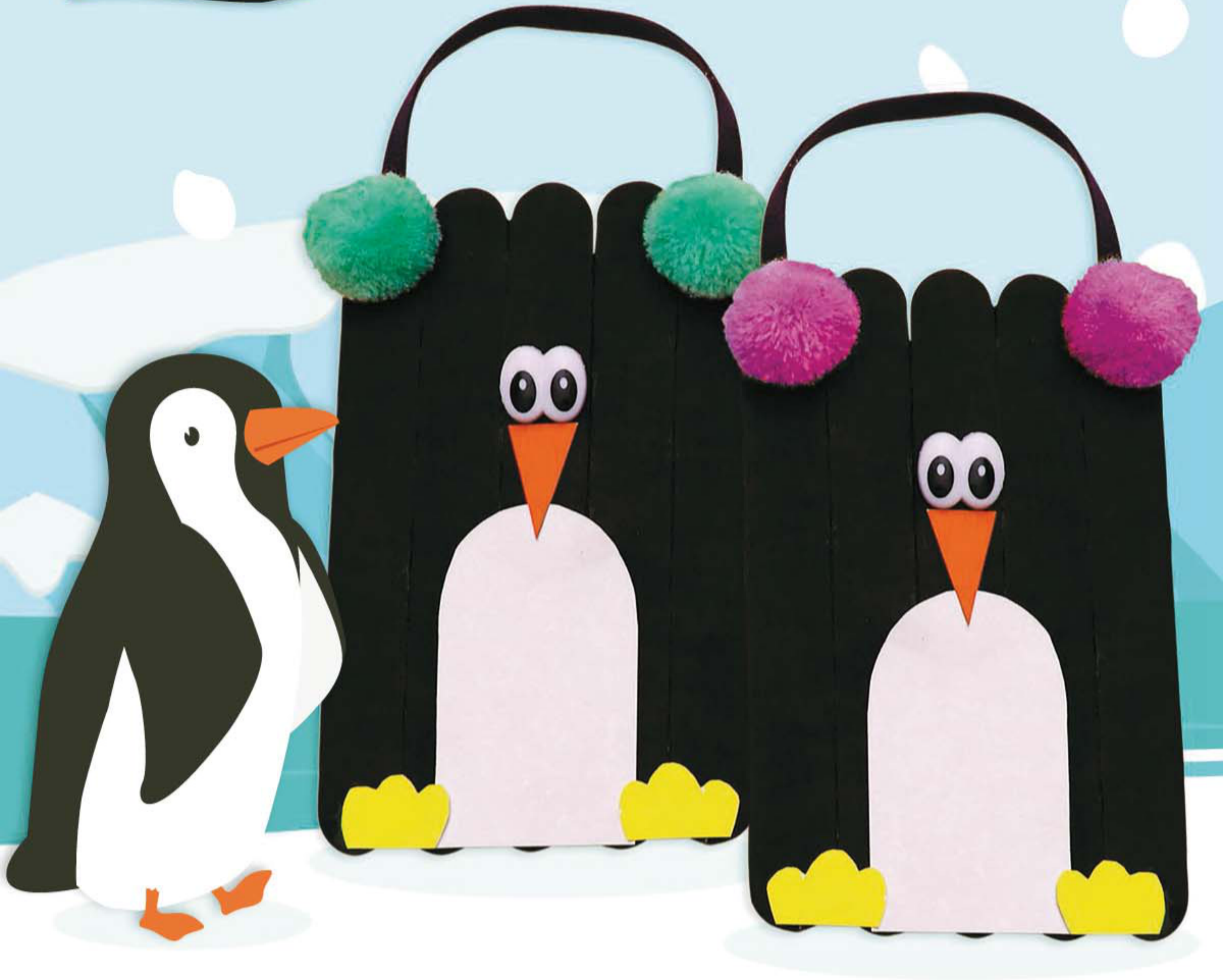
Your pick:

Your pick:

CANADIAN LYNX
VS
SNOW LEOPARD

Your pick:

RUJSTUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; EDWIN BUTTER/SHUTTERSTOCK;
AY AMAZEFOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; ONDREJ PROSICKY/
SHUTTERSTOCK; ONDREJ CHVATAL/SHUTTERSTOCK;
BARBARA SMYERS/SHUTTERSTOCK; GERARD LACZ/
SHUTTERSTOCK; L-N/SHUTTERSTOCK; DANGDUMRONG/
SHUTTERSTOCK; BILDAGENTUR ZOONAR GMBH/
SHUTTERSTOCK; SLOWMOTIONGLI/SHUTTERSTOCK; HARRY
COLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; PETE GALLOP/
SHUTTERSTOCK; KJETIL KOLBJORNSRUD/SHUTTERSTOCK;
CANON BOY/SHUTTERSTOCK; DENNIS W DONOHUE/
SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK (4)



MAKE A popsicle stick PENGUIN!

Hang it anywhere — in your bedroom or on your Christmas tree!

CAREFUL: This project should be done with an adult.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 5 popsicle sticks
- black paint
- paintbrush
- black ribbon
- construction paper in yellow and orange
- white computer paper
- craft eyes
- 2 small pom-poms
- glue
- scissors

DIRECTIONS:

1. Paint all your popsicle sticks black. Wait for them to dry before you glue the five sticks together. Let the glue set.
2. Cut a triangular nose from the orange paper, two curvy feet from the yellow paper and a rectangular stomach with a rounded top from the white paper.
3. Glue all the paper features onto the penguin, as shown. Glue the craft eyes above the nose.
4. Cut your piece of black ribbon to size, make a loop you'll use to hang the penguin and glue it onto the top, backside of the penguin
5. Use glue to attach two pom-poms to the top corners of your craft, giving it earmuffs. Let the glue dry, and then afterwards you're ready to hang your penguin wherever you wish!

IPEQSY/SHUTTERSTOCK

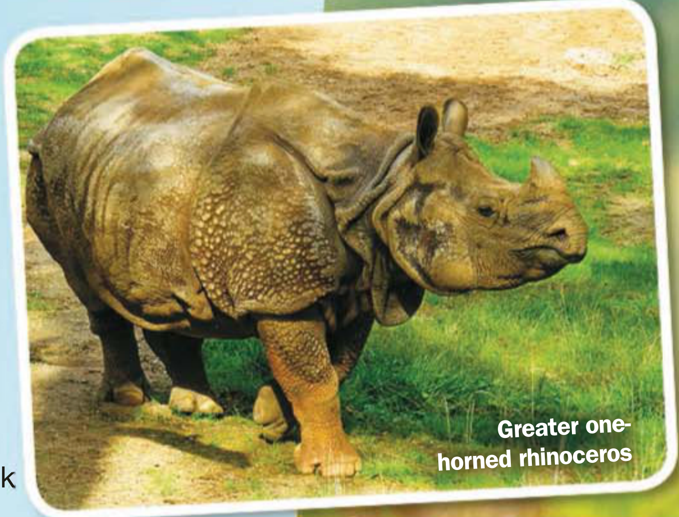
WE ♥ Rhino

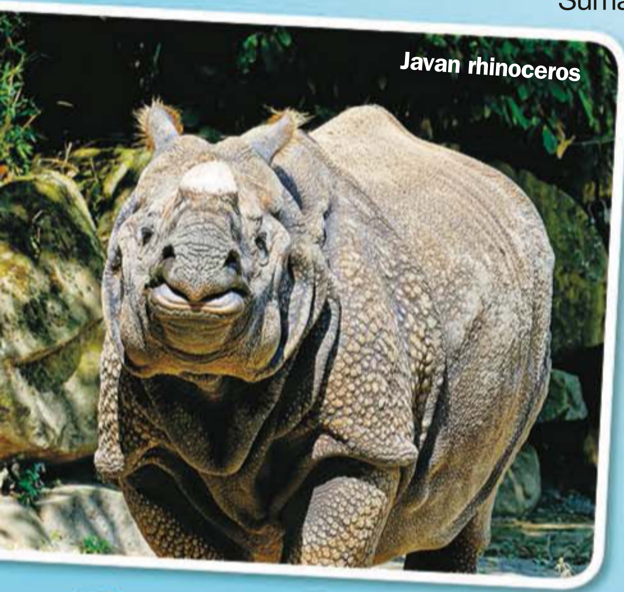
Get to know one of the largest living land mammals!

Do you know where rhinoceroses got their name? It's actually a combination of two Greek words — rhino, which means nose, and ceros, which translates to horn. Pretty fitting, right? *Animal Tales* spoke to Dr. Susie Ellis, the executive director of the International Rhino Foundation, which works to protect rhinos in Africa and Asia, to learn even more about these amazing animals.

EAT UP

You may not know this because they look similar at first glance, but there are five different species of rhinos. "The black rhino and the white rhino live in Africa, the greater one-horned rhino is in India and Nepal and the Javan rhino and the Sumatran rhino live in Indonesia," Dr. Ellis says. They all have many similarities, from their thick skin to their solitary lifestyle. But there is one key difference: the way they eat! "There are two kinds of rhinos: browsers and grazers," Dr. Ellis explains. "White and greater-one horned rhinos are grazers, which means that they primarily feed on grasses. Javan, Sumatran and black rhinos are browsers, so they feed on leaves from trees and bushes."


Greater one-horned rhinoceros


Javan rhinoceros

UNIQUE FEATURE

Without a doubt, a rhino's horn is its signature feature. Though they may look intimidating, rhinos only use their horns for defense when they feel surprised or disturbed. This is especially true for mother rhinos (called cows) who are very protective of their babies, a.k.a. calves. Unfortunately, rhinos are poached, or hunted, for those horns. That's why, three rhino species — Sumatran, black and Javan — are critically endangered, which means they're almost extinct. "The most endangered rhino is the Sumatran rhino," Dr. Ellis says. It's believed there are fewer than 100 of them left in the wild.

HELPING OUT

The good news is that there are plenty of ways that you can help these creatures out. "You can raise money by doing a penny drive at school or a lemonade

SPIKS/SHUTTERSTOCK; KHALIL AHMED/SHUTTERSTOCK; JONATHAN PLEDGER/SHUTTERSTOCK; AFRICAWILDLIFE/SHUTTERSTOCK; DANKHAR/SHUTTERSTOCK; CONSERVATION PHOTOJOURNALISM/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROGER DE LA HARPE/SHUTTERSTOCK

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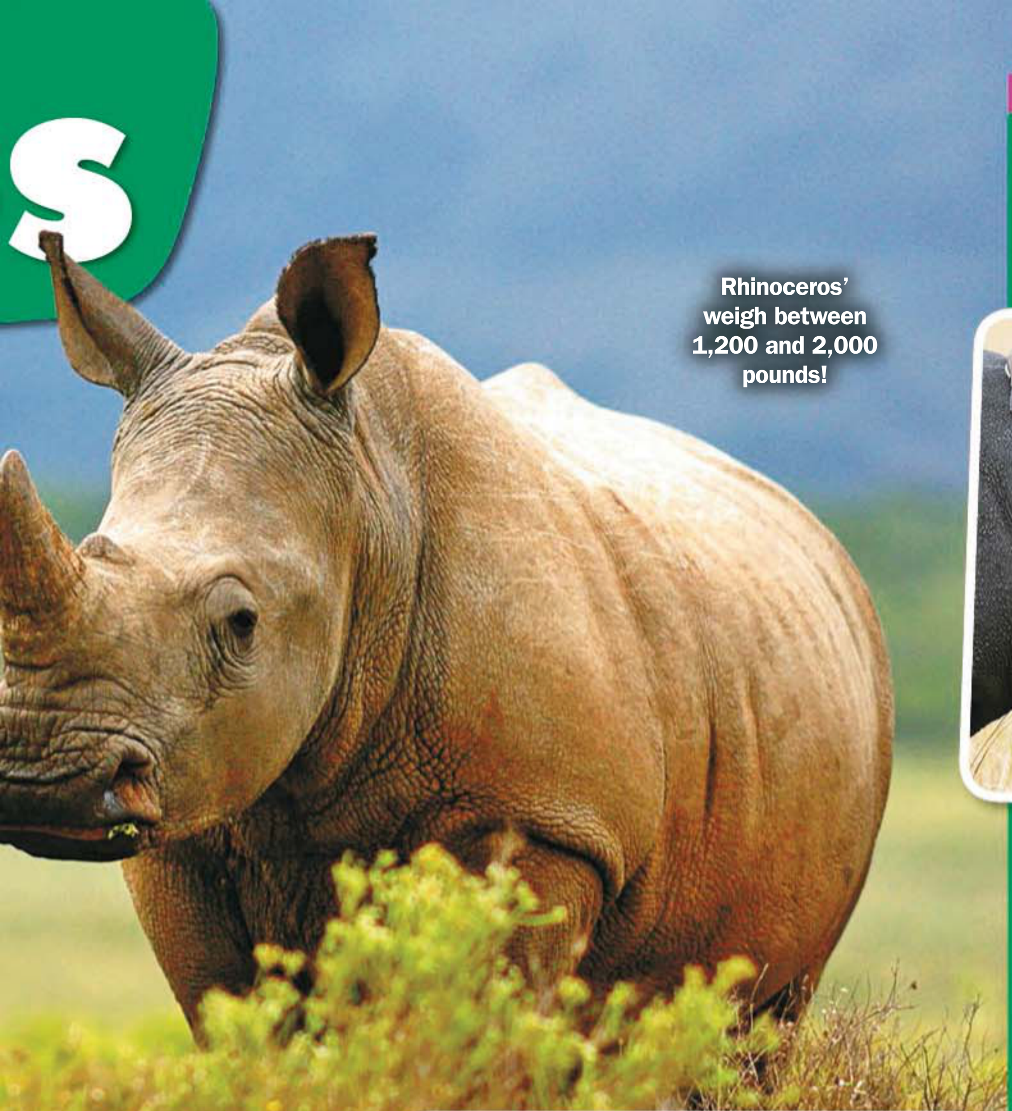
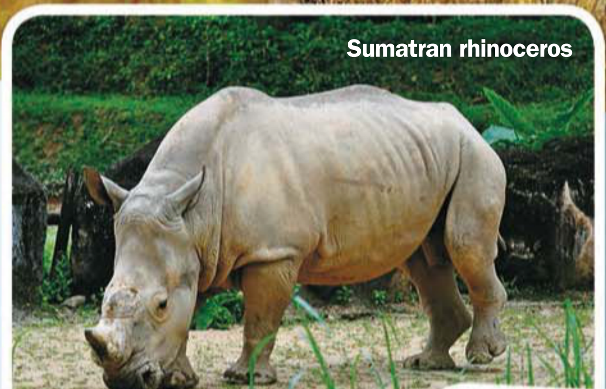
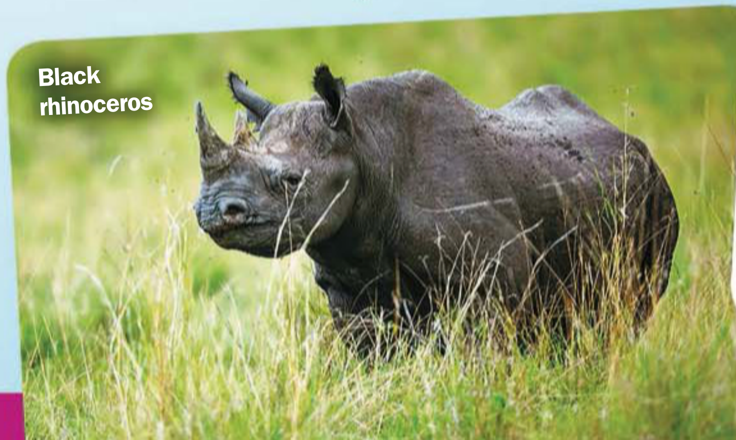


Rhinoceros’ weigh between 1,200 and 2,000 pounds!

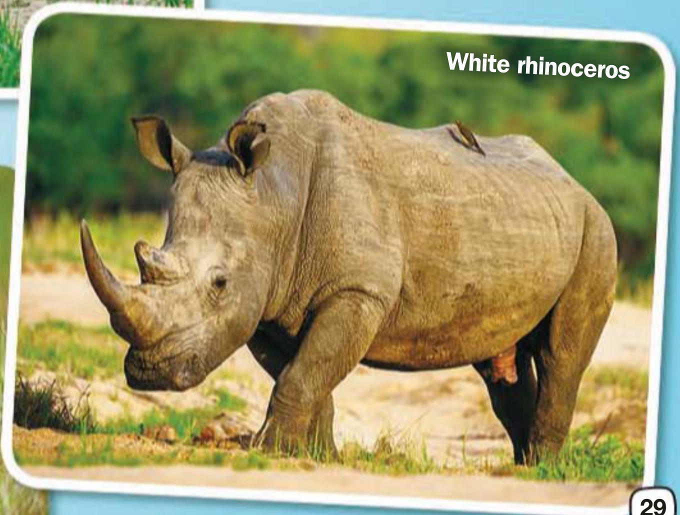
stand,” Dr. Ellis suggests. “Tell your friends and family about rhinos and how they need to be protected or make a poster and share it with your class.” With your help, the future will be bright for these awesome mammals! 🐾



Sumatran rhinoceros

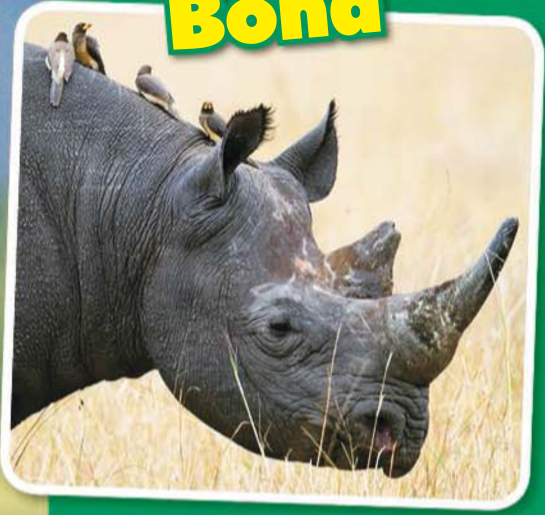


Black rhinoceros



White rhinoceros

An Unlikely Bond

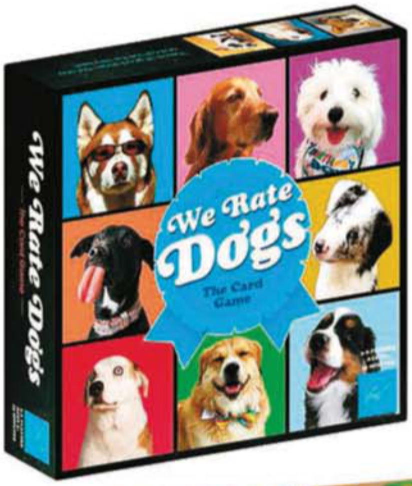


Rhinos really enjoy hanging out with oxpecker birds. Why? They have a symbiotic relationship, which means they stick together to help one another survive. Out in the grass, the rhino’s sensitive hide can easily become covered in lots of ticks and other small bugs, which make them super-itchy. The oxpecker will sit on the rhino’s back and peck out all the insects and eat them. So the rhino gets a cleaning and the oxpecker gets a meal!

Animal Tales'

Holiday WISH LIST!

Want to unwrap awesome animal-themed presents? We've got some suggestions!



IF YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH DOGS

In this card game, each player chooses the cutest pup in their card stack to compete in a dog show. How does one dog win? They're all rated based on categories, such as Sass and Boopability.

We Rate Dogs! The Card Game, $19, walmart.com

IF YOU HAVE A STUFFED ANIMAL COLLECTION

This plush guinea pig, which you probably recognize from the popular stop-motion animation, *Pui Pui Molcar*, is about you be your new favorite cuddle buddy!

Pui Pui Molcar! Medium 11-Inch Plush, $10, amazon.com

CRAFT TASTIC
make a
bug hotel
Bee and Bee

IF BUGS ARE YOUR JAM

Build a bug habitat for your backyard! You can put it together without any tools, and then decorate it with stickers and things you find in your yard, like pinecones.

Craft-Tastic Make A Bug Hotel, $20, fatbraintoys.com

KLUTZ
GROW YOUR OWN
CRYSTAL
DRAGON
STEM
SCIENCE

IF YOU LOVE ALL THE SCIENCES

Studying animals isn't the only thing that interests you! This craft kit will teach you about crystal chemistry, and you'll get to watch the dragon's crystal ears, spikes and fire form.

Klutz Crystal Dragon Craft & Science Kit, $13, amazon.com

OPERATION
PET SCAN
REMOVE THE OBJECTS OR GET THE BUZZER!

IF YOU DREAM OF BECOMING A VET

Rex-Ray the dog ate a few things he shouldn't have, so now you need to get them out of his belly! If you make a mistake, a buzzer will sound to let you know your turn's up.

Operation Pet Scan Board Game, $22, amazon.com

IF YOU'RE A LITTLE EDGY

You won't have any problem slipping your foot into a shark's mouth every time you put on your slippers! The fierce footwear reflects your personality.

Cat & Jack Kids' Knox Shark Loafer Slippers, $20, target.com

IF YOU'RE CRAFTY

This DIY kit can help turn your room into a jungle paradise! Follow the instructions to put together the zebra's head, then attach it to the included light and watch it glow.

Make Your Own Zebra Paper Light, $25, iscream-shop.com

IF YOU APPRECIATE SURPRISES

When you get a Fur by the Foot, you're not only surprised by which stuffed animals are hiding inside the dispenser, but you're also not sure how many are in there either!

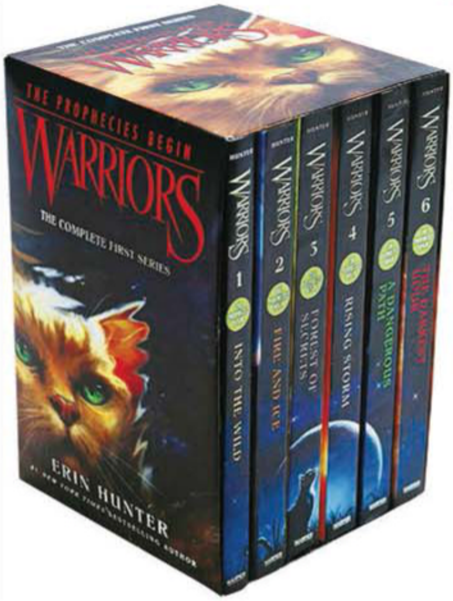
Fur by the Foot Bubble Gum Besties, $21, amazon.com

FUR BY THE FOOT

IF YOU ALWAYS MAKE A STATEMENT

What better way to do it than with your clothes? This unicorn crossbody is so colorful and cute that you'll want to plan your whole outfit around the awesome accessory.

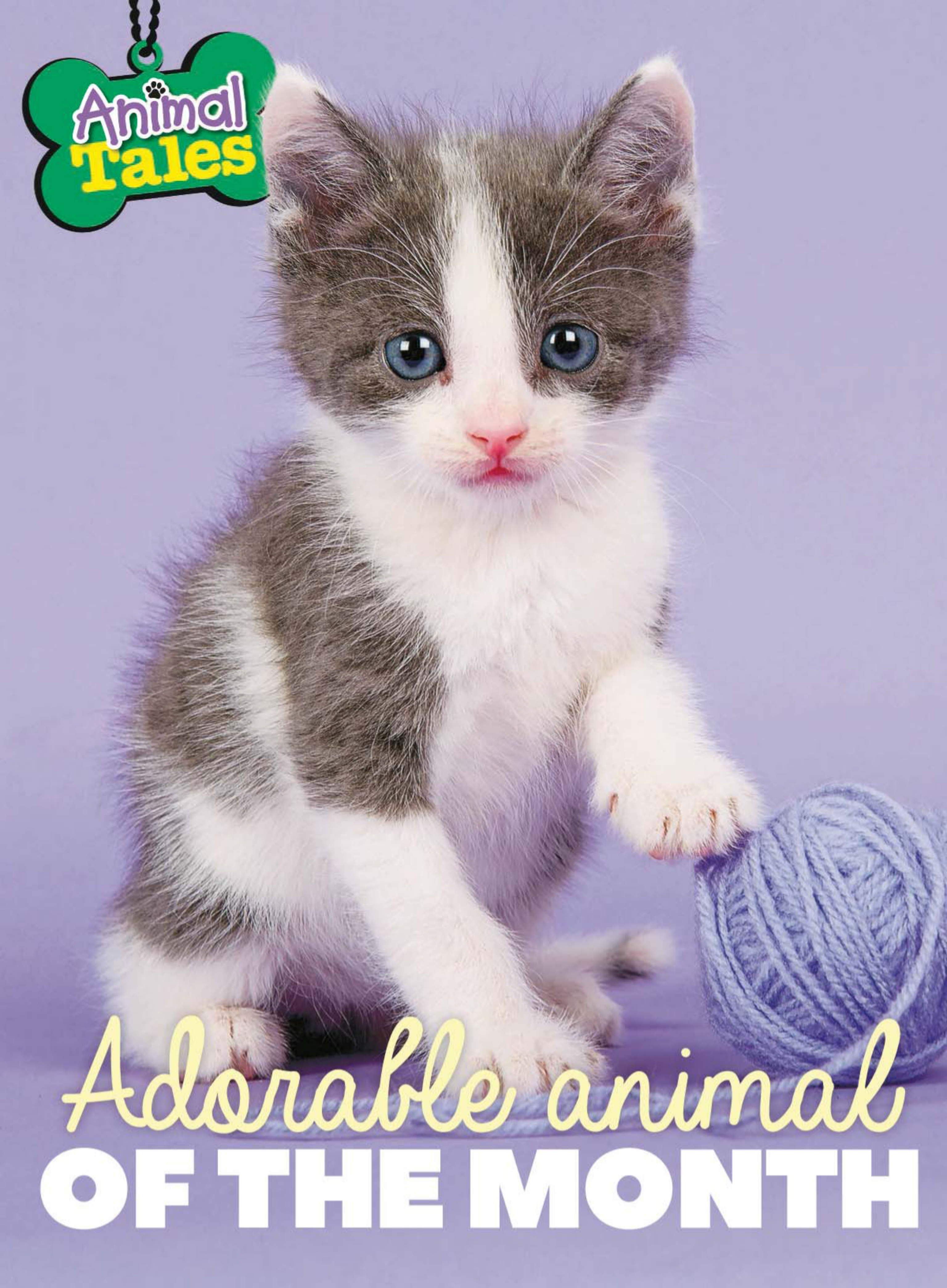
Cat & Jack Kids' Pom Pom Unicorn Crossbody Bag, $13, target.com


THE PROPHECIES BEGIN
WARRIORS
THE COMPLETE FIRST SERIES
ERIN HUNTER
INTO THE WILD
FIRE AND ICE
FOREST OF SECRETS
RISING STORM
A DANGEROUS PATH
THE DARKEST HOUR

IF YOU LOVE FIERCE FELINES

This box set includes six stories about four clans of wild cats who all live in the same forest. Dangers in the woods and a traitor hiding among them make for some interesting tales.

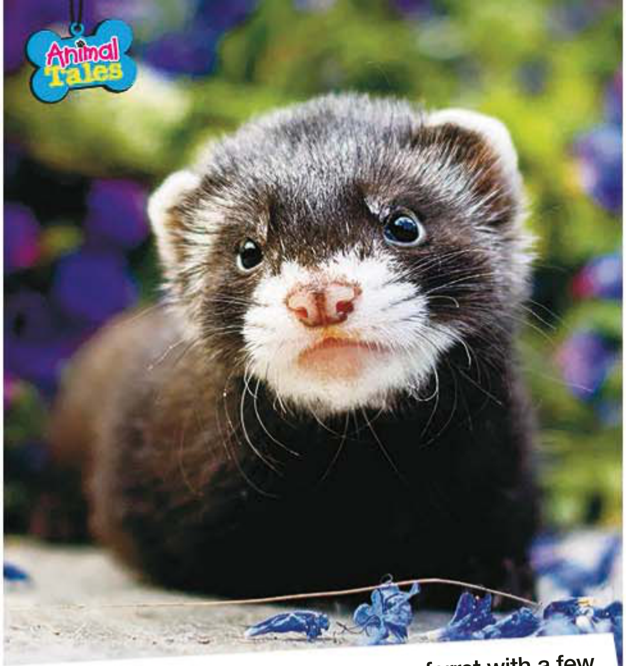
Warriors Box Set: Volumes 1 to 6: The Complete First Series, $28, amazon.com



Adorable animal OF THE MONTH

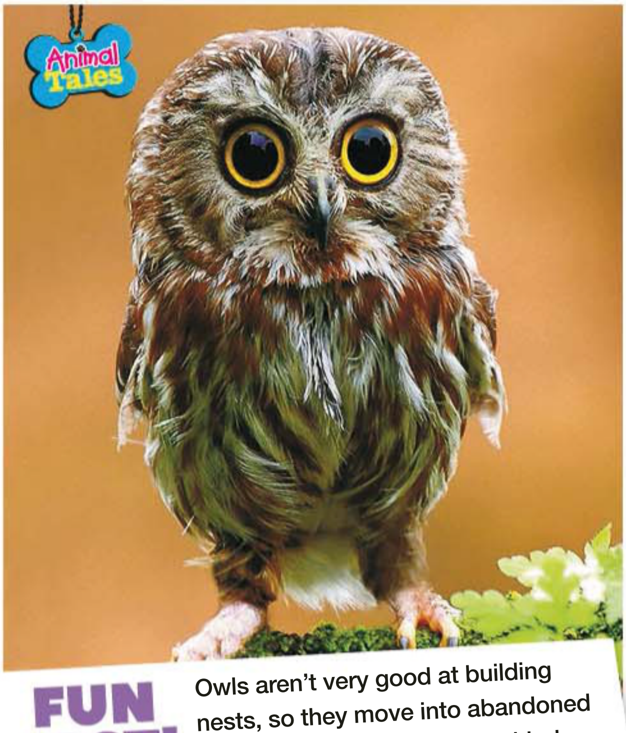
PICK THE NEXT WINNER!

CUT OUT AND KEEP!



FUN FACT! If you saw this young ferret with a few of its siblings, you'd refer to the group as a business of ferrets. How cute!

FUN FACT! Did you know there are two breeds of corgi? The Pembroke Welsh corgi, like this cutie, and the Cardigan Welsh corgi.



FUN FACT! Owls aren't very good at building nests, so they move into abandoned nests other birds have left behind.

FUN FACT! The breed is known as the Bengal cat. It's a mix of the wild Asian leopard cat and the domesticated Egyptian Mau.

SEND US YOUR VOTE!

Cut out and mail to *Animal Tales*, Adorable Animal of the Month, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004 or email your vote to mail@animaltalesmag.com.

Vote for your favorite!

○ **FERRET**

○ **PUPPY**

○ **OWL**

○ **KITTEN**

MIRASWONDERLAND/SHUTTERSTOCK; AZERIKA/SHUTTERSTOCK; NATALIA FEDOSOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; MOHITSHOOT/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANGELA KOTSELL/SHUTTERSTOCK

10 Creatures That Help the Planet!

These animals do important things!

FROGS

Did you know that frogs are bioindicators? That means they help tell us if an environment is healthy or not. Their skin reacts very quickly to toxic conditions, so if a frog has a bad reaction, it's a hint to humans that the habitat is no longer safe to live in.

BIRDS

It's hard to imagine all the work these pretty, winged creatures do for our planet! As birds fly around, they pollinate plants and spread seeds from one place to another, which plays a big role in helping plants grow and keeping the environment lush for other creatures.

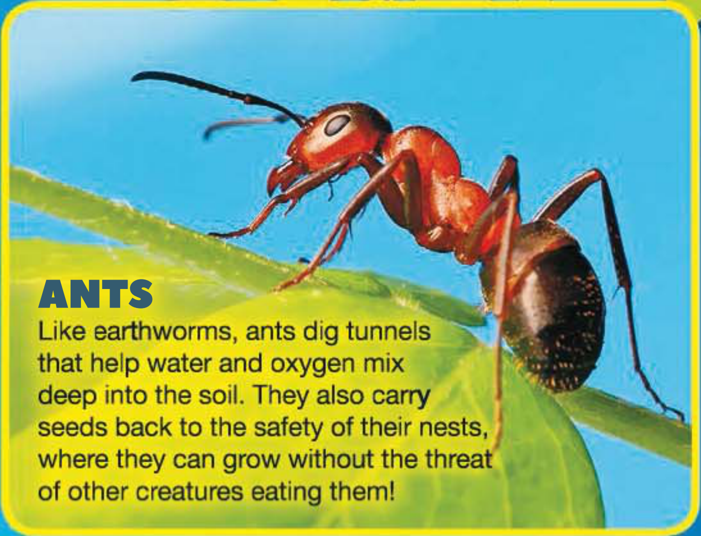
BEES

Many experts say that without bees, humans would run out of food! That's because they are the number-one pollinators in the world! Their pollination is responsible for helping lots of yummy foods, like apples, almonds and watermelons, grow.

BEAVERS These rodents build dams out of branches, rocks and mud to create an area in the water that is safe from predators. The calmer pockets of water created by these dams also become home to a bunch of other species. Without beavers, those other animals wouldn't have a safe place to go!

EARTHWORMS

These slimy little guys have a lot of work to do underground! As an earthworm slithers deep down into the dirt, it forms little tunnels in the ground. The tunnels become pathways for water and oxygen to reach the roots of plants, which helps them grow!



ANTS

Like earthworms, ants dig tunnels that help water and oxygen mix deep into the soil. They also carry seeds back to the safety of their nests, where they can grow without the threat of other creatures eating them!

BATS

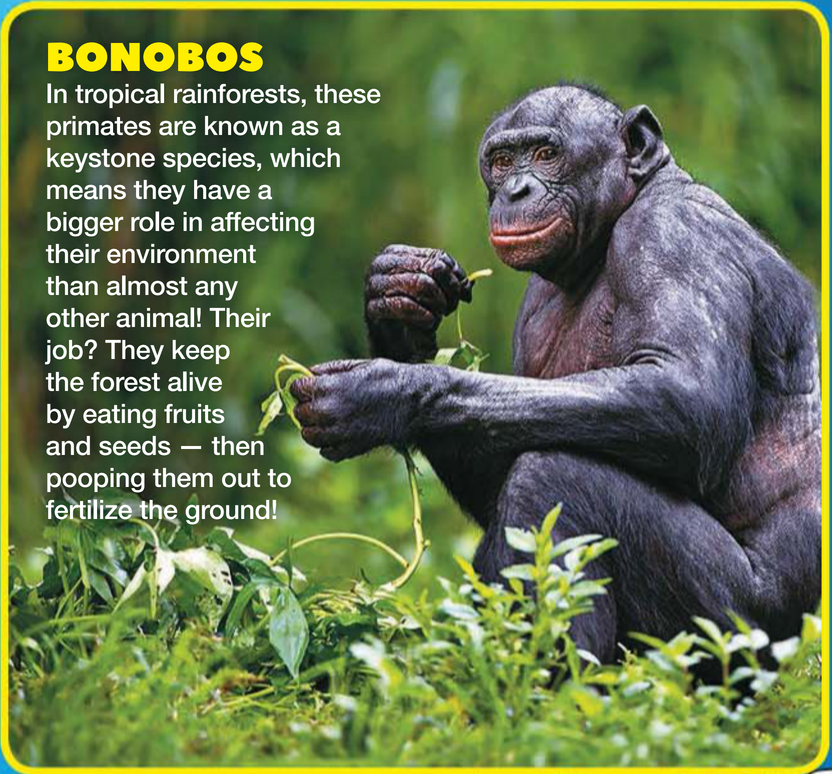
Farmers rely on these nocturnal mammals to keep their crops safe from insects. Why? Because they have quite the appetite. One bat can gobble 1,000 insects in just one hour!

BUTTERFLIES

Scientists keep a close eye on butterflies because they're like mini-weather forecasters! They like to live in mild climates, so if butterflies leave one home to fly somewhere far away that's warmer, it lets experts know that the climate is changing.

PLANKTON

Take a big breath — and now say thank you to plankton! These often-microscopic, aquatic organisms make half of the Earth's oxygen supply. They do this through photosynthesis, which is a plant's process of turning sunlight into energy.



BONOBOS

In tropical rainforests, these primates are known as a keystone species, which means they have a bigger role in affecting their environment than almost any other animal! Their job? They keep the forest alive by eating fruits and seeds — then pooping them out to fertilize the ground!

DULYA YA/SHUTTERSTOCK; SUMRUAY RATTANATAIPOB/SHUTTERSTOCK; BK87/SHUTTERSTOCK; HARRY COLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; RICHARD SEELEY/SHUTTERSTOCK; BUKHTA YURI/SHUTTERSTOCK; ACHKIN/SHUTTERSTOCK; INDEPENDENT BIRDS/SHUTTERSTOCK; KRIACHKO OLEKSII/SHUTTERSTOCK; M-PRODUCTION/SHUTTERSTOCK; WIRESTOCK CREATORS/SHUTTERSTOCK

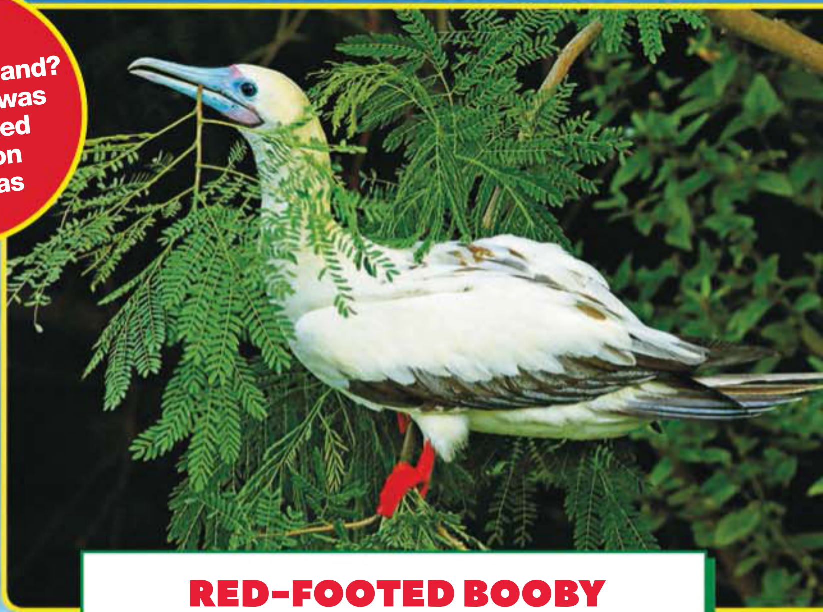
The Animals of CHRIST

Learn more about the creatures native to Christmas Island, an island off the coast of Australia!

Why is it called Christmas Island? Because it was first spotted in 1643 on Christmas day!

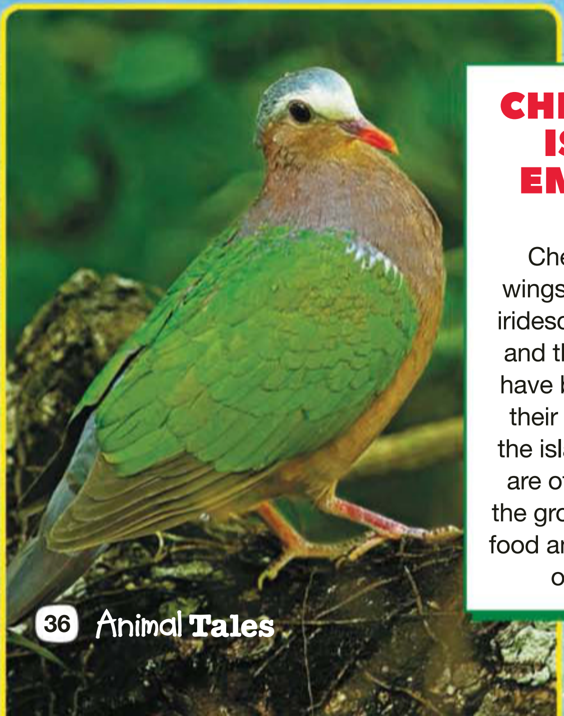
CHRISTMAS ISLAND FLYING FOX

These flying foxes live in the rainforest and spend lots of time together in big groups. They're actually a very important part of the island's ecosystem because they feed on fruits and flowers. Afterwards, they scatter the seeds and the pollen from their snacks around the forest, creating new fruits and plants.



RED-FOOTED BOOBY

As you may have guessed, these seabirds get their name from their red feet! They aren't the largest birds — in fact, they're the smallest bird in the booby family — but that doesn't stop them from being impressive. They're excellent flyers who will travel over 90 miles in search of food.



CHRISTMAS ISLAND EMERALD DOVE

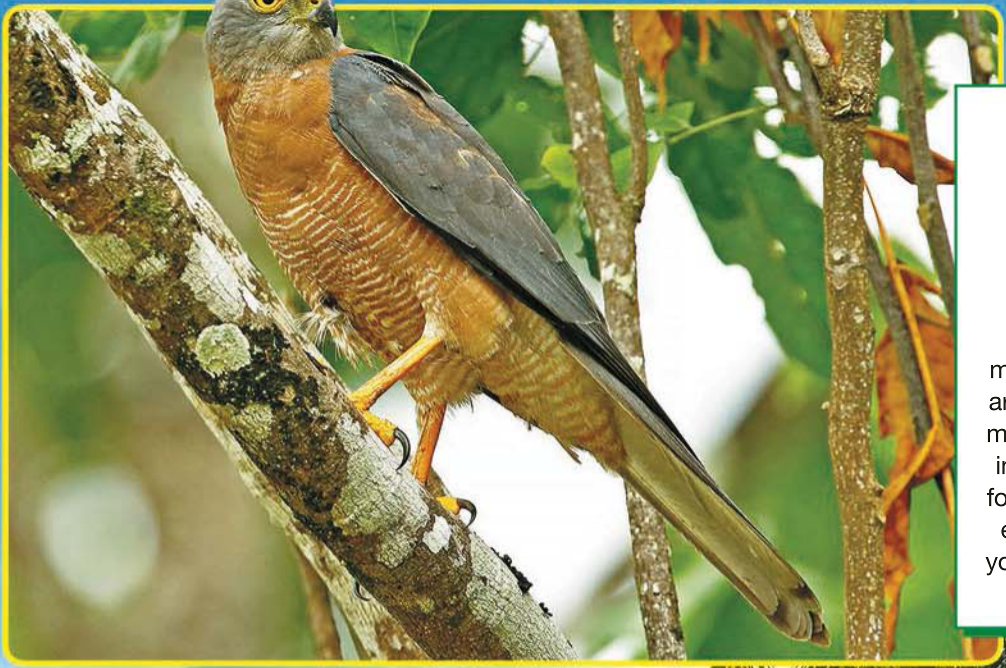
Check out those wings! They're a cool iridescent green color, and the males doves have blue feathers on their heads, too. On the island, these birds are often spotted on the ground foraging for food and building nests out of twigs.

BLUE-TAILED SKINK

Blue-tailed skinks have brown bodies with blue tails. Why? Scientists believe the unusual color lures a predator's attention away from their body, which helps them out because these lizards can lose their tails. They'll discard their tails (which will regrow later) to confuse the predator and then scurry away.

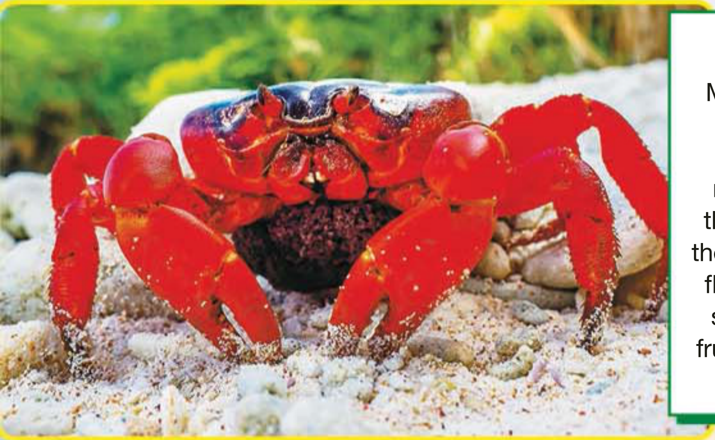
LEDY X/SHUTTERSTOCK; FLPA/SHUTTERSTOCK (4); KURIT AFSHEN/SHUTTERSTOCK; SASCHA CABALLERO/SHUTTERSTOCK; XU YANTAN/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); LATTESMILE/SHUTTERSTOCK

MAS ISLAND!



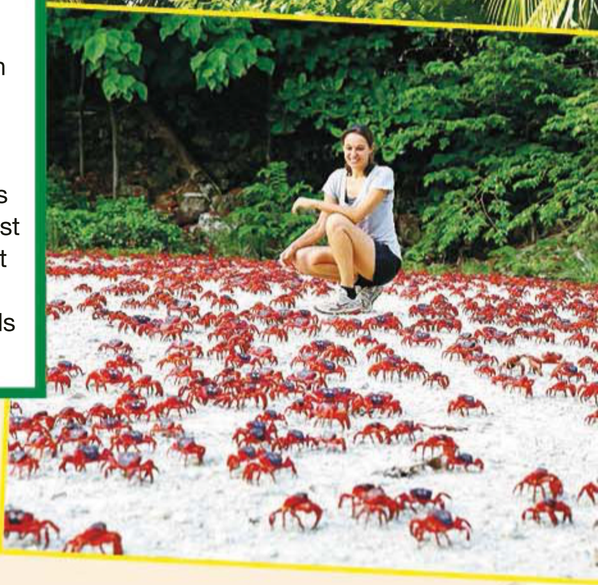
CHRISTMAS ISLAND GOSHAWK

These gray-brown birds are pretty small, though interestingly, the female birds are larger than the males. Females grow to be around 16 inches tall, while males are approximately 12 inches tall. They're known for being curious and might even follow you around if you're walking through their rainforest home.



RED CRAB

More than 100 million red crabs live in Christmas Island's rainforest. You'll find them living in burrows they've dug in the forest floor when they're not searching for leaves, fruit, flowers and seeds to snack on.



THE COOLEST THING ABOUT CHRISTMAS ISLAND

The island's red crabs do something pretty amazing!

Every year, millions of them leave their forest habitat to make their way to the ocean for mating season. As you can tell from the pictures, the crabs swarm roads, trees, beaches and just about every outdoor surface. Special signs have to be put up so people will be on the lookout for the red creatures. You'll spot specially made crab bridges on some roads, while other have to be closed down.

ROAD CLOSED
RED CRAB MIGRATION
NO ENTRY BY VEHICLES
BEYOND THIS POINT

The crabs leave the forest at the start of the wet season, which is usually in October or November. After mating, female crabs stay in burrows on the shore while their eggs (up to 100,000 of them!) develop for approximately two weeks. They'll then swim into the ocean to lay their eggs before beginning their journey back home to the rainforest, leaving their hatchlings to fend for themselves. Sadly, a lot of the young crabs become prey to fish and sharks in the water, but every few years, scientists witness a large numbers of hatchlings emerge from the ocean!

What's your YETI NAME?

Discover your snow monster moniker!

FIND YOUR FIRST INITIAL:

A – Abominable
B – Giant
C – Arctic
D – Blue
E – Legendary
F – Goofy
G – Howling
H – Friendly
I – Wild
J – Fluffy
K – Polar
L – Yodeling
M – Chilly
N – Royal
O – Twilight
P – Sly
Q – Fierce
R – Big
S – Icy
T – Intimidating
U – Purple
V – Stomping
W – Formidable
X – Mythical
Y – Roaring
Z – Furry

FIND YOUR BIRTHDAY MONTH:

JANUARY – Avalanche
FEBRUARY – Blizzard
MARCH – Frostbite
APRIL – Bigfoot
MAY – Snowman
JUNE – Tundra
JULY – Glacier
AUGUST – Freeze
SEPTEMBER – Beast
OCTOBER – Icicle
NOVEMBER – Flurry
DECEMBER – Snowball

MY YETI NAME IS:

____

GINGERSTUDIO072/SHUTTERSTOCK

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QUIZ: WHICH HOLIDAY MOVIE SHOULD YOU WATCH?
FIND OUT WHAT YOUR DOG IS TRYING TO TELL YOU!
THE Puppy ISSUE!
WARNING: Incredibly cute dog pictures inside!
10 WINTER ACTIVITIES TO TRY WITH YOUR PET!
PHOTO SPECIAL: ANIMALS BEHAVING BADLY!

If you love animals, you'll love Animal Tales!

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- Free animal posters for your room
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VAS223F

CATFLIX

If Cats Had NETFLIX...

These are the shows and movies they'd give their purr of approval!

INSIDE THE MIND OF A CAT

This documentary is for anyone who wants to learn more about what cats are thinking! Cat experts share information about the history of how cats became domesticated, why they make certain sounds and so much more.

THE GARFIELD SHOW

This animated show is about everyone's favorite orange cat! Above all things, Garfield loves lasagna and being lazy. The other thing he lives for? Tormenting his owner and his nemesis Odie the dog.

CAT PEOPLE

Cat people are special, so of course Netflix has a documentary devoted to them! Listen to people from all over talk about the special bonds that they have with their cats — and set the record straight about some negative kitty cat stereotypes.

TALKING TOM AND FRIENDS

Talking Tom is a cat who's determined to become a star! This animated kids' show is based on the characters from the popular app, but on it, you'll watch as Tom and his friends film a reality show from his garage.

A WHISKER AWAY

In this anime movie, Miyo Sasaki, a.k.a. Muge, meets a mysterious talking cat who sells her a mask that lets her to transform into a cute white cat. Soon, things get complicated and she has to figure out how to stay human.

44 CATS

Milady, Lampo, Pilou and Meatball are not ordinary cats! The cartoon felines have their own band and they have special powers, which they get from a pasta dish made by their human, Granny Pina.

SCAREDY CATS

On this live-action show, the main character, Willa, receives an amulet from her dad on her 12th birthday, and she soon discovers it has magical powers. It can even turn her and her friends into cats!

CAT BURGLAR

This one's a little different — it's an interactive cartoon! A cat burglar is trying to steal an expensive painting from a museum. In order to help him, you have to answer multiple-choice trivia questions correctly.

OLGA S L/SHUTTERSTOCK

Animal Tales

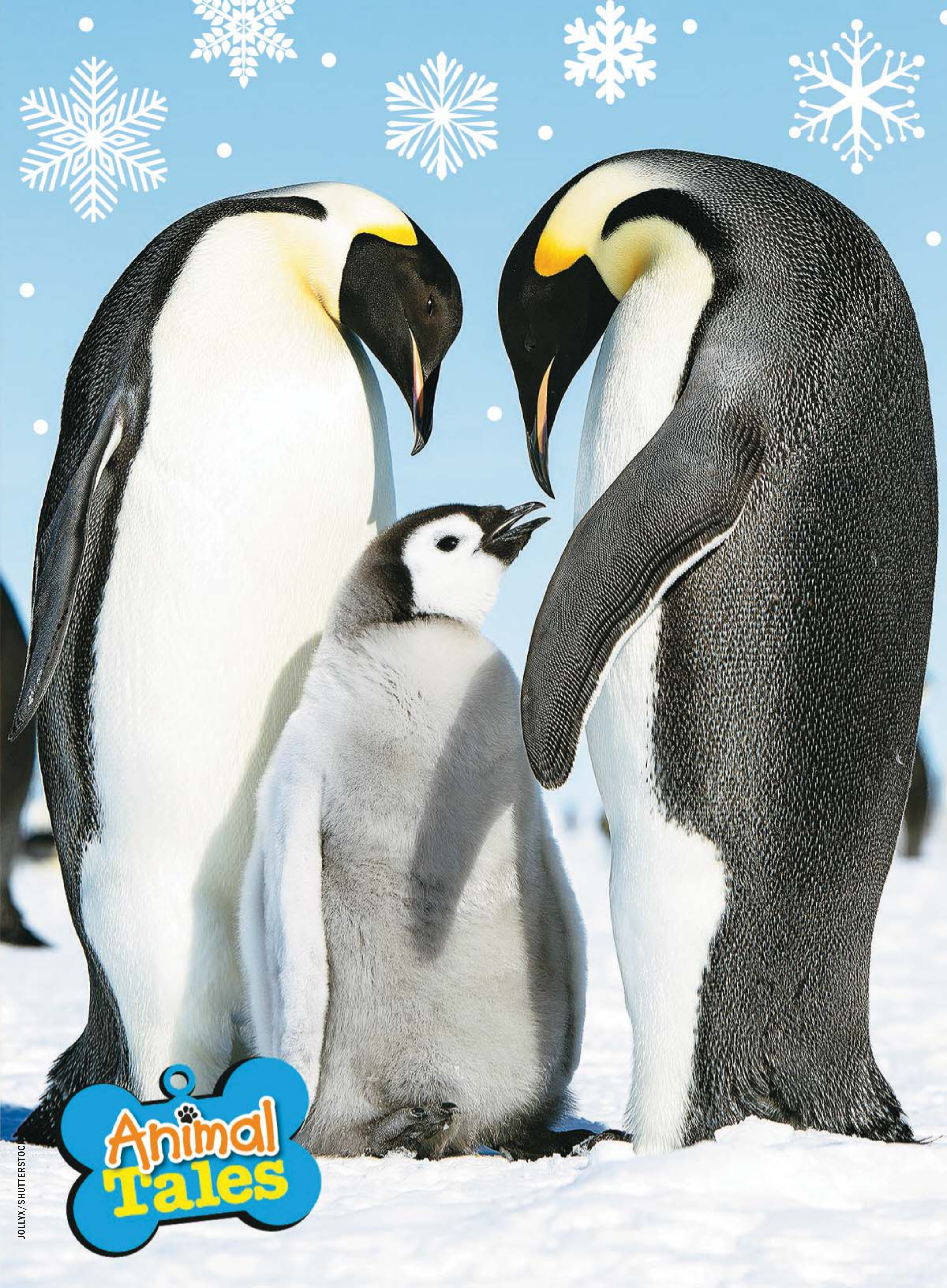
INSPIRED BY MAPS/SHUTTERSTOCK

HAPPY
Hanukkah
Animal Tales

SHEILA FITZGERALD/SHUTTERSTOCK

I COULD RULE THE JUNGLE!

RUJSTUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK



Animal Tales

JOLLYX/SHUTTERSTOCK

You've got my SEAL
of approval!
Animal Tales

MASHA BASOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Santa PAWS

IS COMING TO TOWN!

ZAKHAROVA_ELENA/SHUTTERSTOCK

You're a HOOT!

JAMES PINTAR/SHUTTERSTOCK

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SOMPAO/SHUTTERSTOCK

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Hey, NEIGHBOR!

CHRISTIN NOELLE/SHUTTERSTOCK

10 FUN WINTER ACTIVITIES

To Do with Your Pet!

Discover some cool ways to keep your pet happy and active during the cold winter months!

Do you ever feel cooped up inside when it's cold out? Just like you, your pet might feel the same way during the winter. It can be hard to come up with fun things to do, so here are some ideas for activities to beat the winter blues — indoors and out!

HOST A PET PLAYDATE

Dogs are social animals that love being around others, and some cats like it, as well. Ask your parents if you can have a friend over, and have them bring their pet, too. The animals will have fun playing together while you and your pal do the same.

ENTERTAIN YOUR PET WITH BUBBLES

You probably think of blowing bubbles outside on a summer afternoon, but they're actually a great indoor activity for a dog or a cat. You can use special pet-safe bubbles and watch as your pet playfully tries to pop them!

BRING YOUR CAT ON A SLED RIDE

Many cats won t like to be out in the snow, but if yours doesn't mind it, take them on a sled ride! If they'll stay put on it, pull the sled on flat ground — you probably don't want to actually sled down a hill with them because they could get hurt. To make sure they don't run away, use a cat harness or leash (yes, they make them for cats). Small dogs might enjoy this snow day activity, too!

PLAY KEEP AWAY WITH YOUR CAT

Cats love to chase things, so play a fun game of keep away. You can run down the hallway dragging a toy on a string, and when your cat gets close to catching it, yank it away! Cats can also have a blast running around after the red dot from a laser pointer.

ALENA OZEROVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; IN GREEN/
SHUTTERSTOCK; ZUKERMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

TEACH YOUR PET NEW TRICKS

When dogs are cooped up inside, they may start chewing on furniture or shoes out of boredom. Keep their mind occupied by teaching them new tricks, like balancing a treat on their nose or shaking your hand. Cats can also be taught tricks — just use treats as a reward when training them, like you would for a dog.

GO ON A TREASURE HUNT IN THE SNOW

If it's not too freezing out, you can play outside as long as you make sure to keep your pet warm (small dogs may require a sweater), and clean off any salt from their paws when you come inside. If there's snow on the ground, a treasure hunt is a great way to get your dog to use his natural tracking instinct. Hide their toys in the snow, and then watch them sniff around the yard to find them.

PLAY FETCH WITH SNOWBALLS

You can't actually have a snowball fight with your dog (they can't throw back!) but you can play snowball fetch! Throw a snowball like you would a regular ball, and watch your dog try to find it. You'll probably need a bunch of snowballs since they will break apart and melt in your pup's mouth.

VISIT A PET SUPPLY STORE

You might not be able to bring your furry friend everywhere, but one kind of store they can go to is a pet supply shop. They welcome animal customers! If your pet is social, they'll be excited to see so much going on and other animals, too.

PLAY HIDE AND SEEK WITH YOUR PET

Sure, you can hide treats around the house for your dog to find, but it's even more fun if they have to find you! Get their attention with a treat or a toy, then hide. Call for them to "come," and see how long it takes for them to find you! You can also have another person play, too. As soon as your dog finds you, have the other person hide and call for your pup. Then you can hide somewhere else and call them again!

CREATE AN INDOOR OBSTACLE COURSE

Your dog or cat will enjoy running around things you put in their way as you chase them! Stack sofa pillows on the floor, create a tunnel with blankets draped over two chairs and run up and down the stairs. Just get permission from your parents first and move any breakable things out of the way!

Meet 14-year-old Austin: “I WANT TO HELP all kinds of animals!”

P.
Pup
Buy a
Save

He raises money to help creatures in need!

One winter day in Florida, a 6-year-old Austin Testa was thinking about how cold his pet Chihuahuas get on chilly nights, and he wondered what happened to shelter animals who were feeling the same way. So he asked his mom to take him to Walmart, where he bought fleece blankets that he later donated to a local shelter. That’s how his nonprofit, Every Bark Counts, started. Eight years later, Austin helps all sort of animals — from dogs to lemurs — and he’s sharing his story with *Animal Tales*!

Why did you decide to name your nonprofit Every Bark Counts?

I named it Every Bark Counts because animals can’t speak for themselves. I’m a voice for the voiceless.

Very true! What kinds of animals have you helped?

I’ve helped dogs, cats, horses, rabbits — really, a lot of animals. I've helped lemurs, too.

How much money have you raised?

I've raised about or more than $100,000 for animals.

How do you decide what animal causes you’re going to donate to?

Well, what a lot of people don't realize is shelters are government run and they get money from the government, but people see them first and they don't really see the rescues. I help the rescues, but I don't just donate food, toys and stuff — I help with animal surgeries. For example, if you were a rescue that didn't have enough money to help your dog because he had a broken leg, I would help pay for the medical bills and the surgery for the dog. But I also go to a rescue's wish list and I look and see, “Oh, they need food. They need pee pads for their puppies. Oh, I'll get them the food and the pee pads.”

You mentioned helping lemurs. How have you done that?

Through a lemur sanctuary I work with — it’s called Chase Animal Sanctuary. I actually saved two lemurs that were called cotton-top tamarins. Their whole life they were in a little dog cage, and I helped buy them and build their enclosure at the sanctuary. They have two babies now!

How do you raise the money to help all these animals?

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AUSTIN TESTA

Pop a Pup
EVERY BARK COUNTS
AUSTIN
OWNER
727-512-5500
EVERYBARKCOUNTS@GMAIL.COM

"I would say I've always been an animal lover," Austin smiles.

Austin has helped rescues all over the country!

Here's Austin with a lemur!

Austin and Hubble have a special bond!

I do different fundraisers. When I was younger, my mom had a commercial cotton candy and popcorn machine and we would take them to events. I'd set up at Christmas events, car dealerships and other business that will let me, and I'll sell popcorn and cotton candy for $3. Then, the proceeds would go to the animals. Now, I'm working on a shaved ice trailer, and I named it The Atomic Dog Snow Shack. I'll sell shaved ice and part of those proceeds will go to the animals.

What's been the most rewarding thing about the work that you're doing?

Well, that's really hard to say. All of it's rewarding — if it's a dog surgery when they're able to walk on their legs or even when a dog that I've helped gets adopted. A really big thing that I got excited about happened a couple years ago. It was a dog named Hubble. A rescue had him and they needed help because they didn't have enough money for him to get his surgery. Hubble was abused — his head was as big as a watermelon and his back hind leg was shattered. So I paid for his leg to get reconstructed, and I paid for his medical bills, his after-treatment. I paid for everything for him. What really meant something was right after his surgery, he walked straight to me and he wasn't even supposed to be on his leg. And now he's in a forever home!

What's your ultimate goal?

I would say to help as many animals as I can in the future and to have my own shelter for the animals. Animals in shelters are usually on the cold ground in cages and they're all stressed out. I want to have a shelter that would make them less stressed. I want to open a place where animals are loved, and they wouldn't even think of it as a shelter!

Are you an animal advocate?

We'd love to hear from you! Send your story to *Animal Tales*, Animal Advocate, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY, 10004 or email mail@animaltalesmag.com.

CREATURE

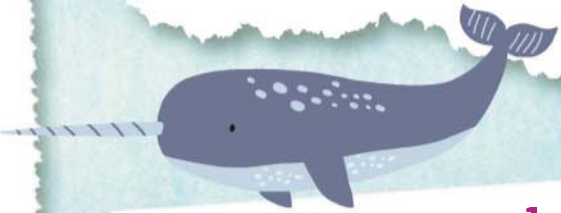
Everyone loves animals! But we want to know what your favorites are in each category. Grab a pen or pencil, then fill out our list of your favorite creatures. You can make things more fun by getting your family and friends to list their tops picks, too!

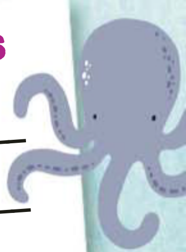
My top five farm animals

1 ________________________
2 ________________________
3 ________________________
4 ________________________
5 ________________________

My top five dream pets

1 ________________________
2 ________________________
3 ________________________
4 ________________________
5 ________________________



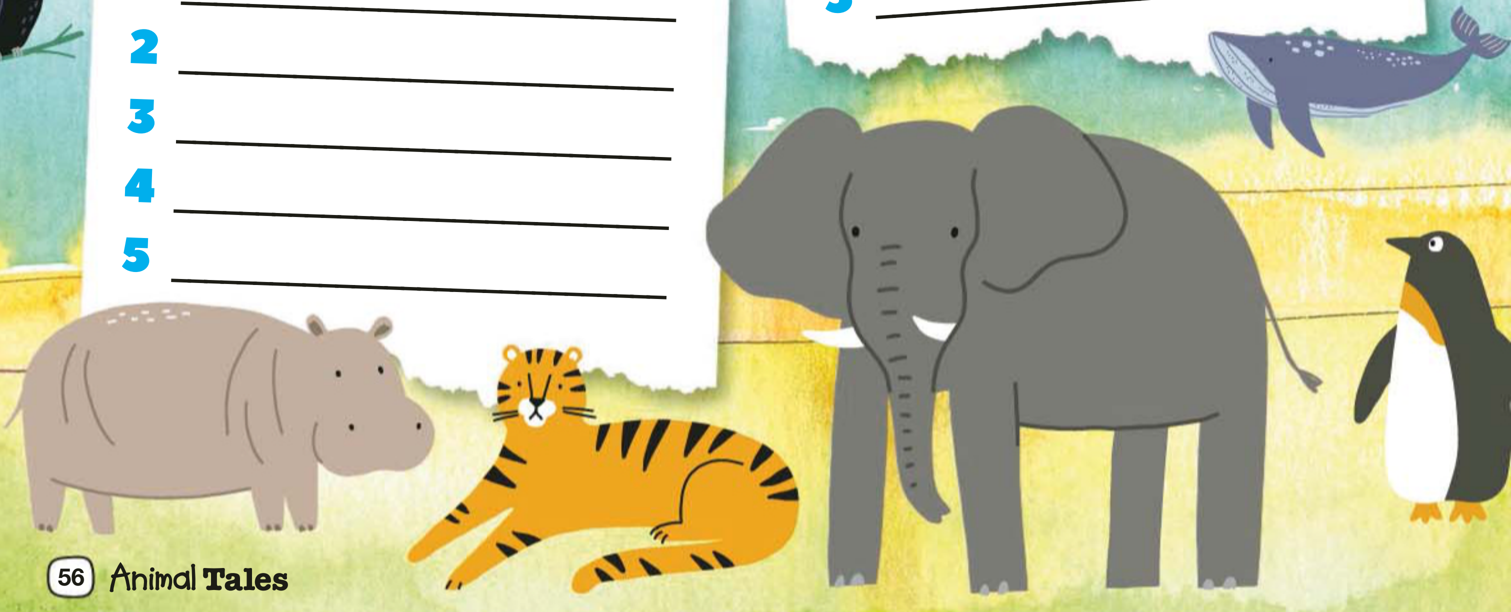


My top five ocean dwellers

1 ________________________
2 ________________________
3 ________________________
4 ________________________
5 ________________________

My top five jungle animals

1 ________________________
2 ________________________
3 ________________________
4 ________________________
5 ________________________



COUNT!

My top five dog breeds

1 ________

2 ________

3 ________

4 ________

5 ________

My top five animals that live in my state

1 ________

2 ________

3 ________

4 ________

5 ________

My top five animals to see at the zoo

1 ________

2 ________

3 ________

4 ________

5 ________

My top five tiny animals

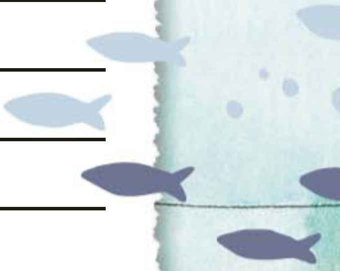
1 ________

2 ________

3 ________

4 ________

5 ________



My top five animals from movies

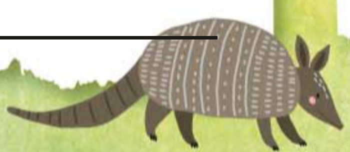
1 ________

2 ________

3 ________

4 ________

5 ________



My top five mythical creatures

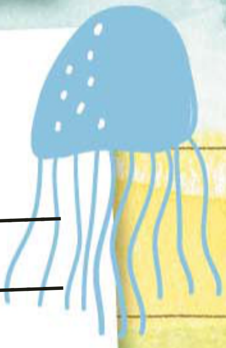
1 ________

2 ________

3 ________

4 ________

5 ________



NADEZDA BARKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; VESNIN SERGEY/SHUTTERSTOCK

Game

HELP PUSS IN BOOTS FIND

Puss needs to make a wish to

DIRECTIONS: Have each player use a different coin as their game piece. Roll a dice to see who goes first — the player with the highest number is #1. Then, roll the dice for each of your turns. When you land on a space with instructions, make sure to follow them. The first person to the finish line wins!

START

Holy frijoles — Puss in Boots is asking you to travel with him to the Black Forest and find the Wishing Star!

You fit right in with the other member of the crew: Perro, a therapy dog Puss just met. **MOVE ONE STEP FORWARD.**

You bravely agree to help Puss on his quest to restore his nine lives.

Uh-oh, you hide at the first sign of trouble. Lose a turn!

You're surprised to find out Puss has also asked Kitty Soft Paws for help.

You give the former couple time to catch up. Stay here for 1 turn.

You sit with Puss as he sips on his favorite drink — leche, of course!

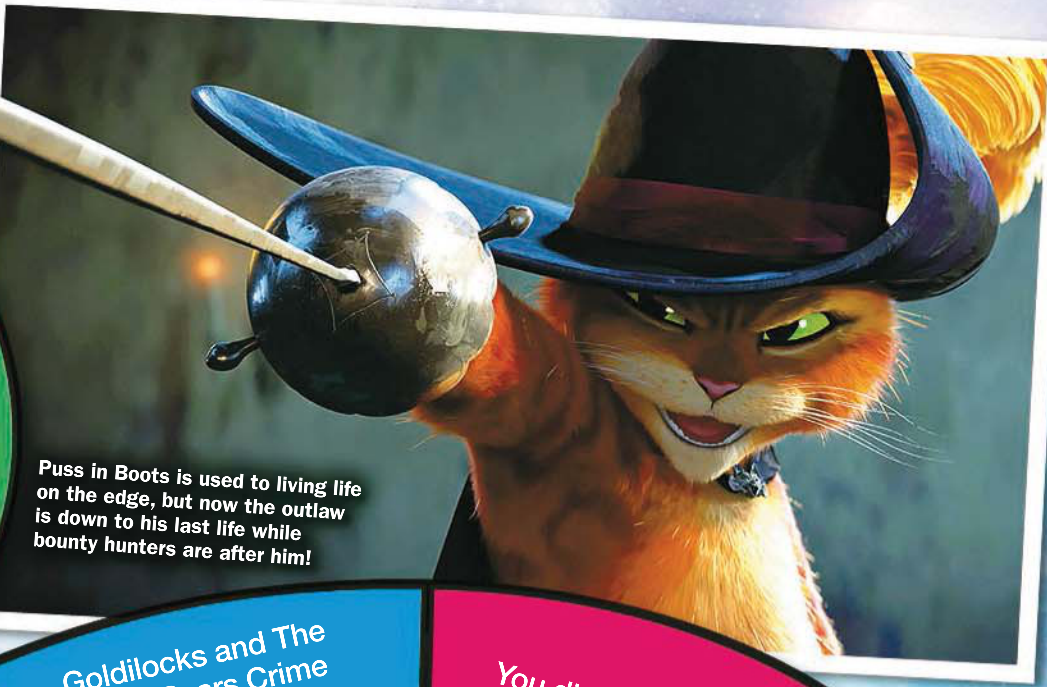
The Big Bad Wolf is looking for Puss. Roll a 2 or a 3 to help him move forward three spaces.

FINISH

Will you be the one to find the mythical last wish? Roll a 6 to win!

DREAMWORKS ANIMATION LLC (5); HAMONT/SHUTTERSTOCK

You're shocked to learn he's been living a quiet life as a pet cat at Mama Luna's.



Puss in Boots is used to living life on the edge, but now the outlaw is down to his last life while bounty hunters are after him!

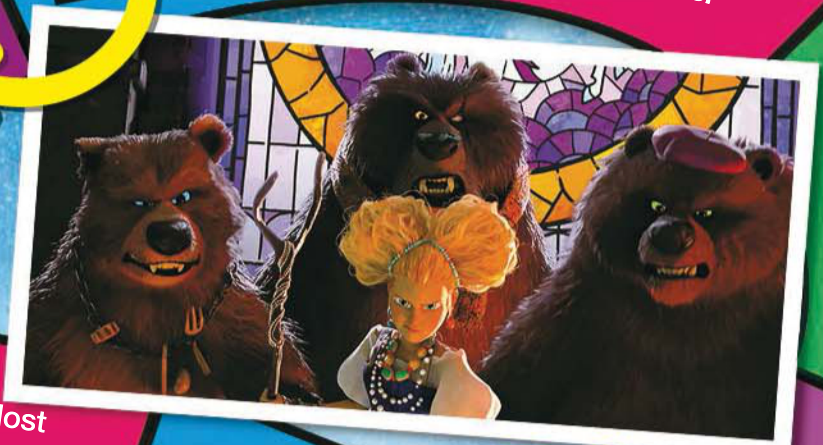
Puss tells you that bounty hunters are after him. You lose a turn while you decide if you can help.

Goldilocks and The Three Bears Crime Family have you cornered.

MOVE ONE STEP BACK.

You distract Goldilocks while Puss adopts his alter ego — a house cat named Pickles.

You let Puss entertain you with tales of his past adventures.



Perro gives you a much-need pep talk.

Now that you've lost the bounty hunters for good, you see the forest in the distance.

"Big" Jack Horner — another bounty hunter — is hot on your trail now.

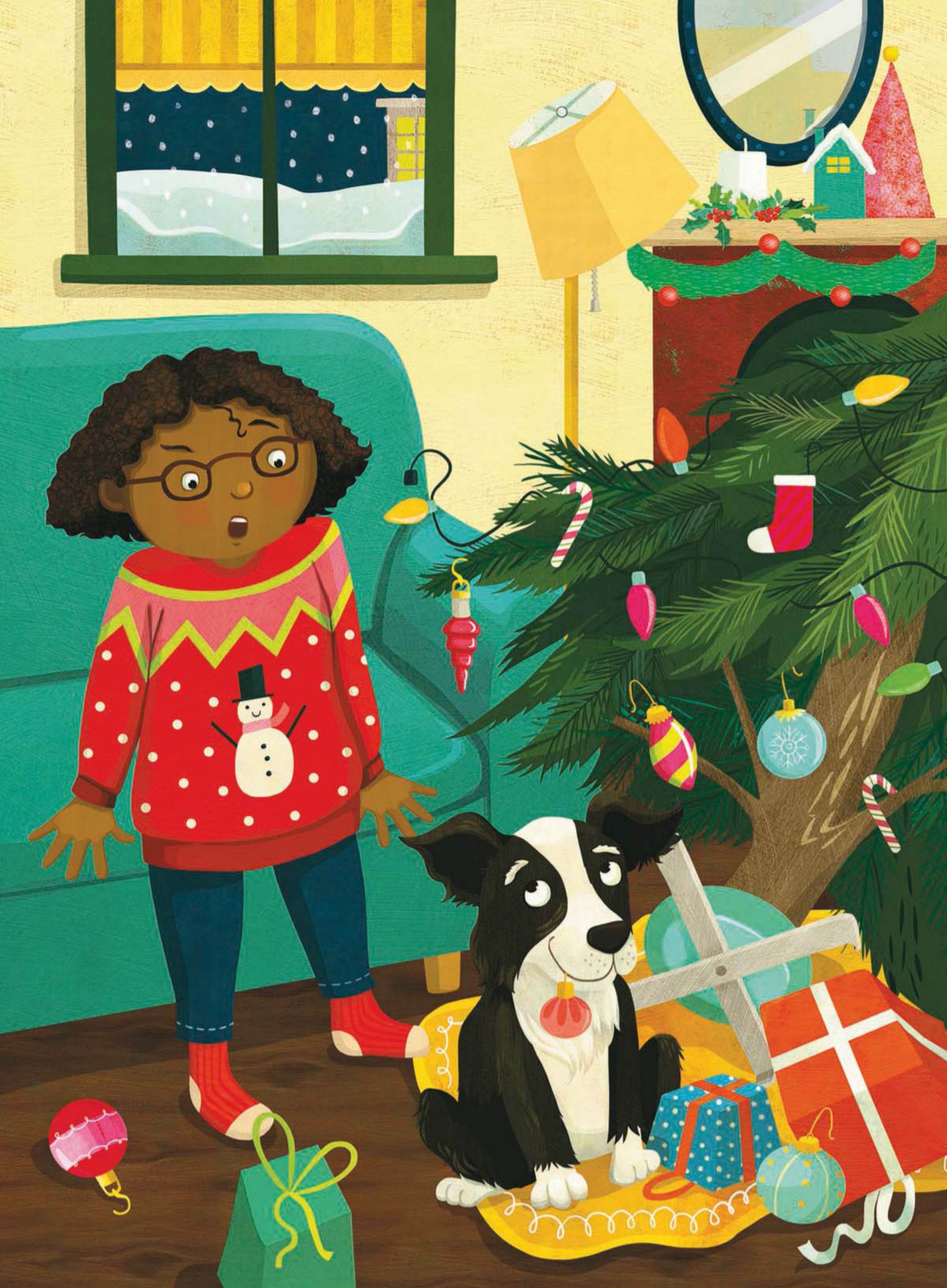
MOVE ONE STEP BACK.

Puss breaks out his Spanish guitar to play an inspiring tune.

***PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH* HITS THEATERS ON DECEMBER 21!**

THE LAST WISH!

restore is nine lives. Can you help him?



The Christmas Tree CRANK

Amara groaned when she heard a loud crash coming from downstairs. “Dad, did she knock it over again?” she asked, afraid of the answer.

Mr. Allen didn’t respond until his daughter made her way into the living room. “She sure did,” he said, clearly exasperated.

As Amara stared at their knocked over Christmas tree, she couldn’t blame him. This was the third time Noel, her 1-year-old border collie, had jumped on the tree and sent it crashing down. As if that wasn’t bad enough, the mischievous pup had started playing keep-away with the ornaments, too.

“Noel,” Amara said in a firm voice when she saw what was in the dog’s mouth. “Drop that right now. It’s my favorite ornament, and I don’t think I can forgive you if you break it!”

Noel didn’t move a muscle. She seemed perfectly happy to let the red ornament — the one Amara and her Aunt Michelle had made together years ago — dangle from her mouth.

Amara’s dad tried to help, knowing how important the ornament was to her. “You have to be clear and concise with your commands, sweetie,” he reminded her.

“Noel, drop it,” Amara repeated. “Drop it.” She repeated the phrase over and over, but Noel just sat there.

“Ughhhhh,” Amara whined. “It’s just my luck that I’d get a puppy on Christmas day and she’d turn out to be The Grinch.”

“Amara,” her dad chided. “Don’t say that.”

“Why? She’s a total crank. Actually, she’s The Christmas Tree Crank,” Amara chuckled at her own joke. “Yeah, that’s what I’m going to call her from now on.”

Her dad rolled his eyes, but she could tell he was amused. “It’s hard to believe we’ve had Noel for a year.”

Amara nodded her agreement, thinking back to last Christmas. She’d been so excited to find a puppy waiting under the tree for her. Noel had been so chill back then ... not so much anymore.

Amara watched as her dad tried to persuade

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAURA WATSON

Noel to drop the ornament by waving a spoonful of peanut butter in front of her face. As always, that did the trick. Amara quickly grabbed the ornament, deciding she’d bring it to her room later for safekeeping until the tree went back up.

“We shouldn’t have to offer her peanut butter like that all the time,” she mentioned to her dad. “In fact, all the YouTube videos I watched about dog training said giving her a treat in these situations only reinforces her bad behavior.”

Her dad folded his arms in front of his chest. “I know that, sweetie, but I didn’t want her to break your favorite ornament.”

“Does that ornament have Noel’s face on it?” Amara’s dad asked.

Amara let her smile convey her thanks.

“So what do you think it is about the tree that bothers Noel so much?” she asked aloud. “Maybe it’s the ornaments — she always seems to know which ones to go after.”

“Yeah, I’m still bummed she broke the Yankees one last week,” Mr. Allen admitted.

“I know!” Amara said. “First she grabbed your favorite and now mine! It’s almost as if ... wait, no ... it couldn’t be ...”

“Clue me in here, kid,” her dad interrupted her babbling.

“I have the best idea!” Amara bounced up and down. “You’re just gonna have to wait and see what it is.”

It took a week for Amara’s secret solution to come in the mail. Once it did, she tore open the package and ran into the living room.

“Good you’re both in here already,” she looked to her dad and Noel.

“Did you need something?” Mr. Allen asked.

“Yeah, to show you my brilliant surprise for Noel,” Amara said, sitting down next to the Christmas tree, which had been standing upright again for a few days now.

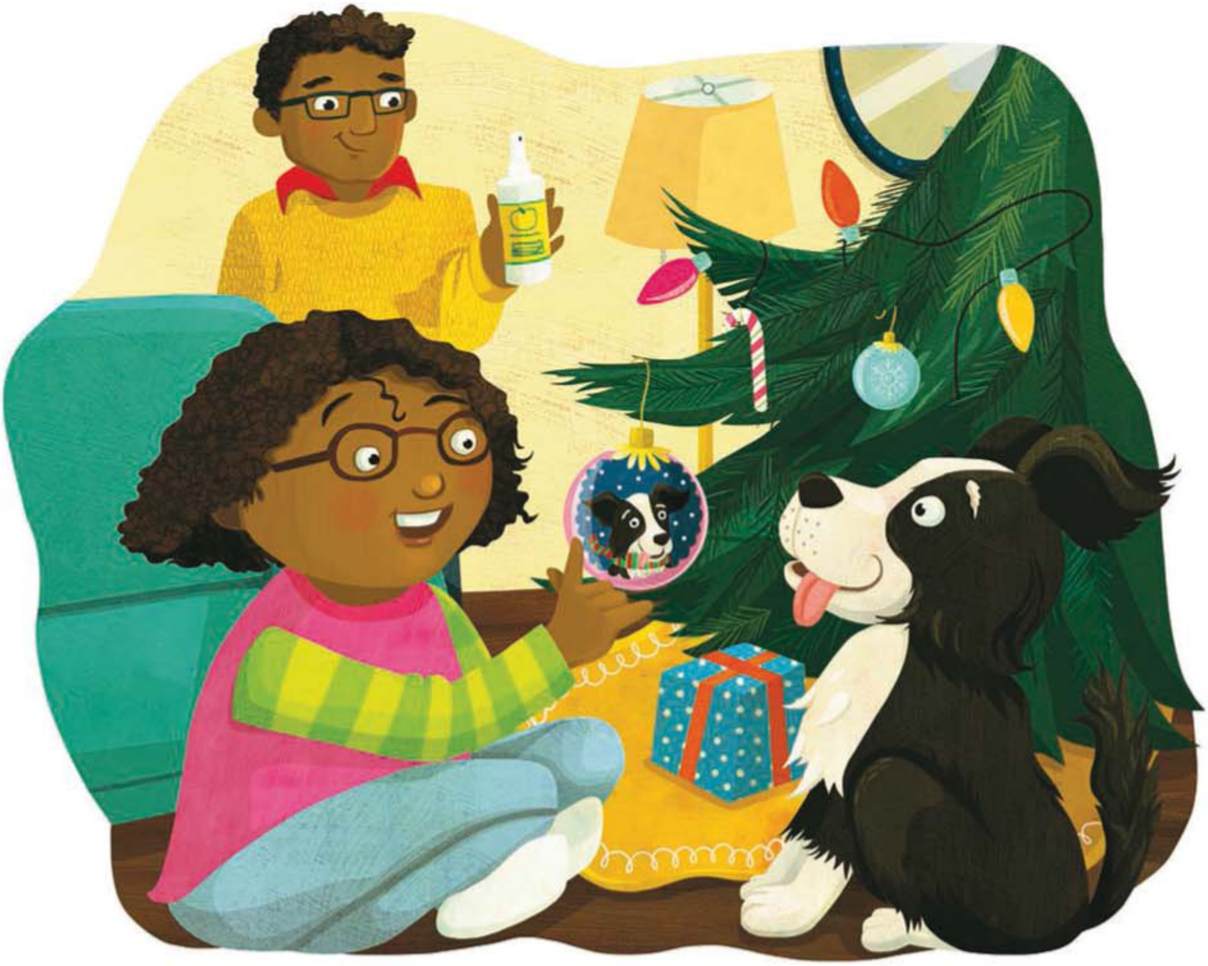
She called Noel over. When the collie sat down in front of her, Amara pulled an ornament out of the box she was holding.

“Does that ornament have Noel’s face on it?” Amara’s dad asked.

“It sure does,” Amara smiled. “I asked Aunt Michelle to make it for me. I thought maybe Noel would appreciate the Christmas tree more if she had a favorite ornament on it, just like us.”

“Not a bad idea,” her dad sounded proud.

“She seems excited about the ornament,” Amara noted with excitement. “And she’s



behaving pretty well so far. I think this might really work!"

Amara leaned over and put the ornament on the tree, making sure it was on Noel's eye level so she could see it. That's when she smelled something strange. "What is that?" she asked, sniffing the tree.

"What?" her dad asked, sheepishly.

"Dad, you clearly know."

"Okay, okay, I also got a package today, but mine was a bottle of bitter apple spray. Dogs don't like the scent, so if you spray something with it, your dog will leave it alone."

"Wow, that's genius," Amara exclaimed.

"Yeah, but we have no way of telling what's making Noel behave. It might be the spray or it could be your cool ornament," her dad said.

"It makes no difference to me," Amara admitted.

"Really?" her dad sounded surprised.

"Yeah, look at her," Amara pointed to Noel, who was still sitting near the tree with a happy look on her face. "She's calmly sitting next to the tree. It's a miracle!"

"It kind of is," Mr. Allen chuckled.

"So whether it's the spray or the ornament, I don't care," Amara explained. "I'm just happy Noel is finally respecting the Christmas tree!"

"Hmmm," Amara's dad was thinking about something. "So what about her nickname then? Is she still The Christmas Tree Crank?"

Amara looked down at Noel, who had a goofy grin on her face, and the answer was obvious. "Nope, not anymore."

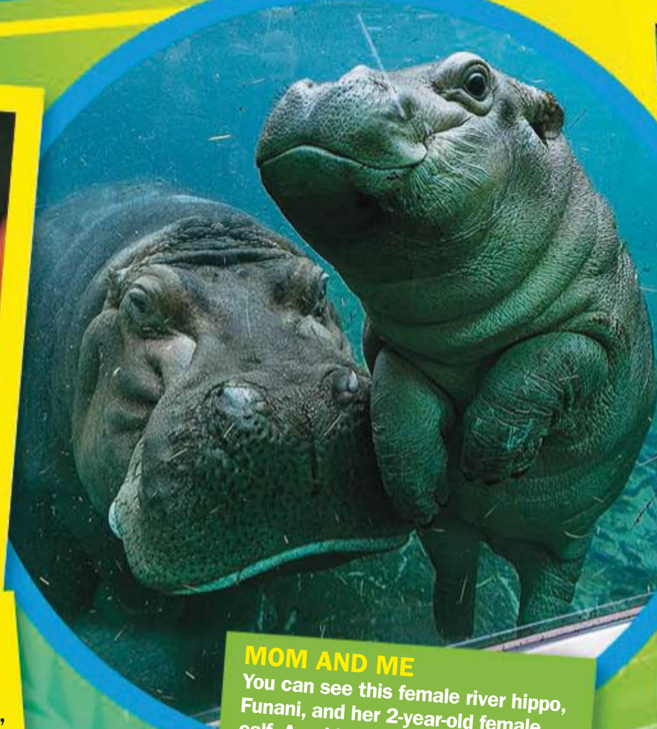
San Diego Zoo

WALK ON IN
The San Diego Zoo is a 100-acre wildlife park where you'll find over 12,000 rare and endangered animals, representing more than 650 species and subspecies. And there's more than just animals — the zoo is a botanical garden, too. There are more than 700,000 plants.

FLYING HIGH
You'll be flying like a bird over the trees on the Skyfari Aerial Tram. You can ride the tram from one end of the zoo to the other, making it a super-fun shortcut.

Animal Tales Tours:
San Diego Z

FUN FLAMINGOS
San Diego Zoo is home to the largest population of greater flamingos in North America, and as you can see, they're welcoming more!



MOM AND ME
You can see this female river hippo, Funani, and her 2-year-old female calf, Amahle, who zookeepers describe as active and adventurous, in the zoo's Urban Jungle.

SLEEPY SPECIES
Head to the Australian Outback exhibit to check out the koalas. They do spend a lot of the day sleeping, but that's okay because there's a koala-themed play area in the exhibit to keep you entertained while they doze off.

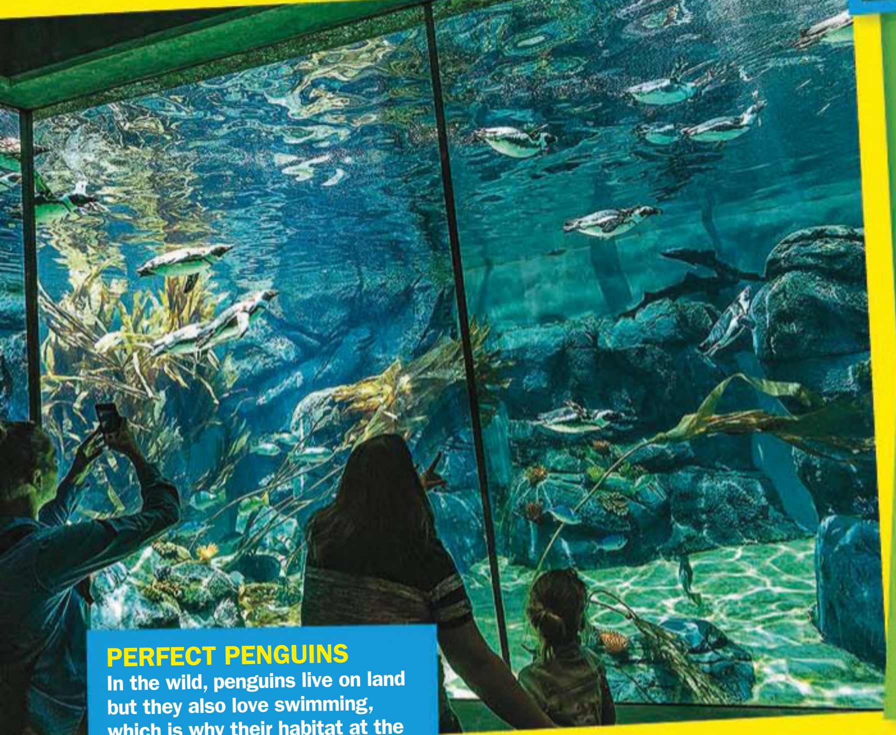
GENTLE GIANTS
You can find both African and Asian elephants in San Diego Zoo's Elephant Odyssey. Be on the lookout for the Elephant Care Center, where you'll find wildlife care specialists giving medical check-ups.

PHOTOS: KEN BOHN/SAN DIEGO ZOO

OO

We're giving you a look inside the California zoo!

EXCITING ENCOUNTER
Galápagos tortoises are the oldest residents at the zoo. They're estimated to be over 100 years old! The zoo has special event for kids where you can get up close and personal with the tortoises.

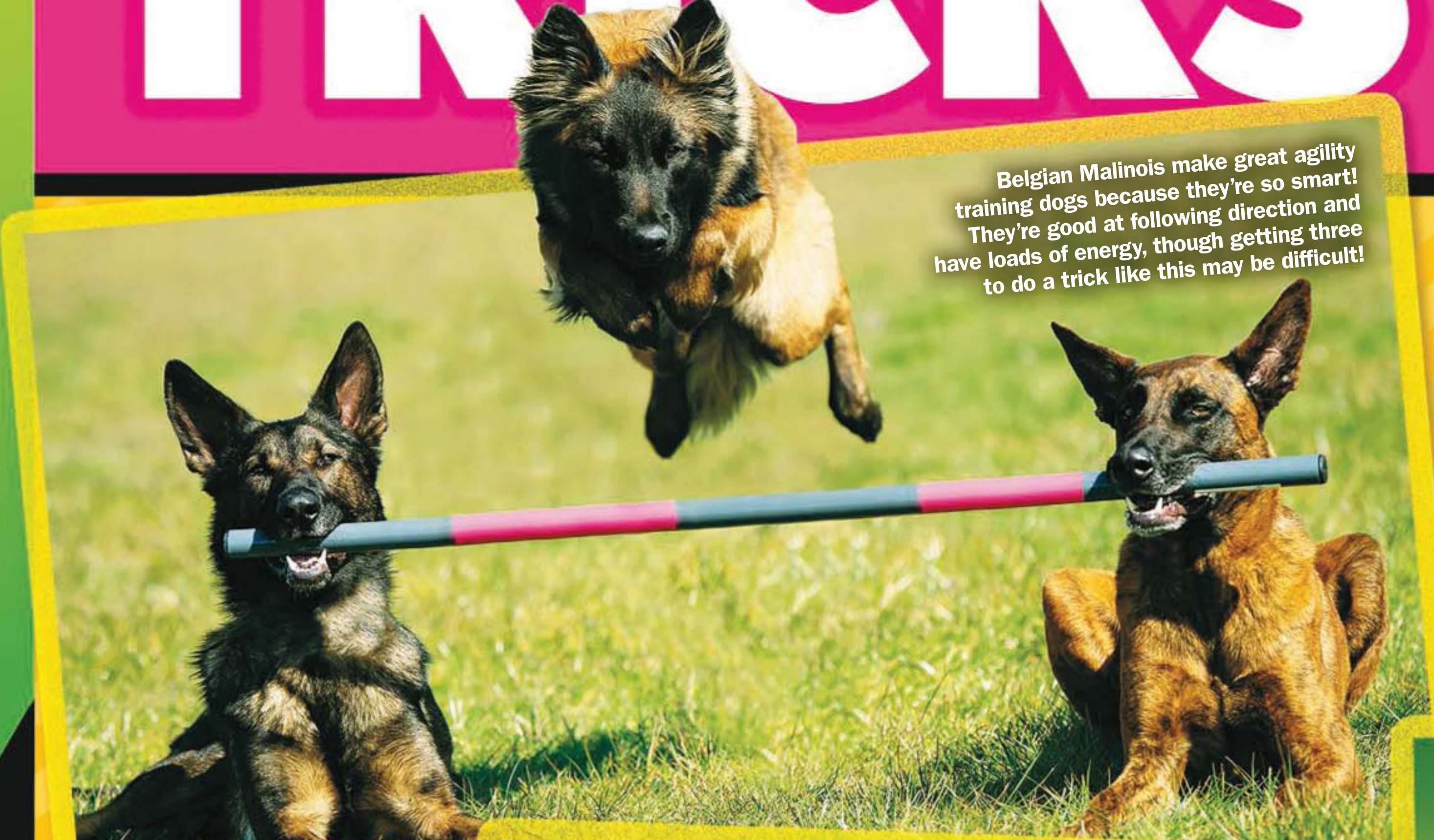


PERFECT PENGUINS
In the wild, penguins live on land but they also love swimming, which is why their habitat at the zoo looks like this. If they swim upward, they'll make it to "shore."

LIVELY LEOPARDS
Amur leopards have a special habitat with tons of climbing structures because they need to climb, explore and play with new things. The leopards also have a great sense of smell, so wildlife care specialists add spice oils like lavender around their area.

Silly Pet TRICKS

Wow, these are some clever critters!



Belgian Malinois make great agility training dogs because they're so smart! They're good at following direction and have loads of energy, though getting three to do a trick like this may be difficult!

Okay, maybe a chipmunk can't ride a bike, but they can move really fast! When a chipmunk is on the run, they can go 21 miles per hour and jump up to three feet into the air.

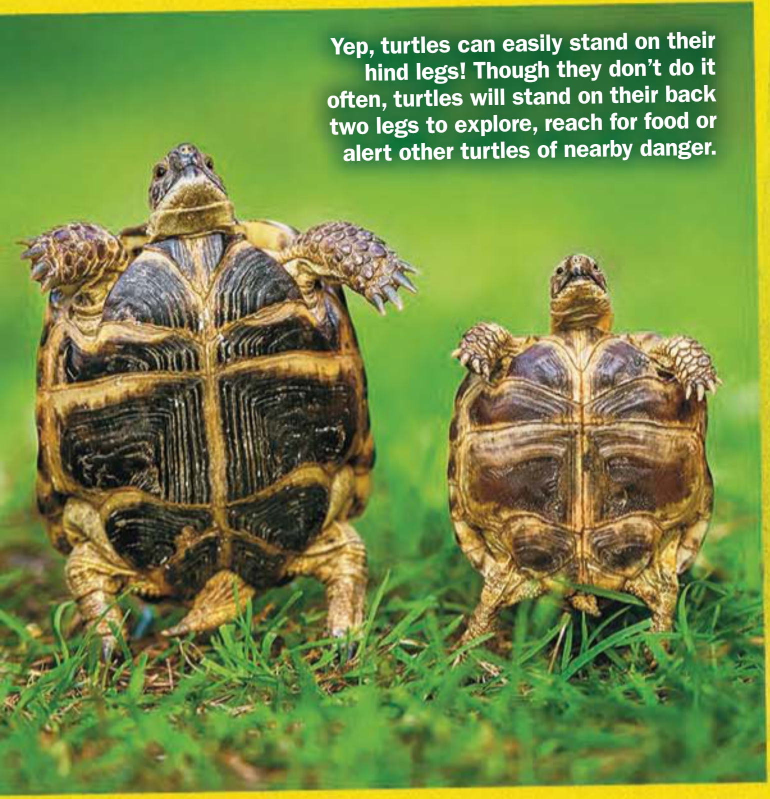
SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your pet doing something clever, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com or send it to *Animal Tales*, Silly Pet Tricks, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

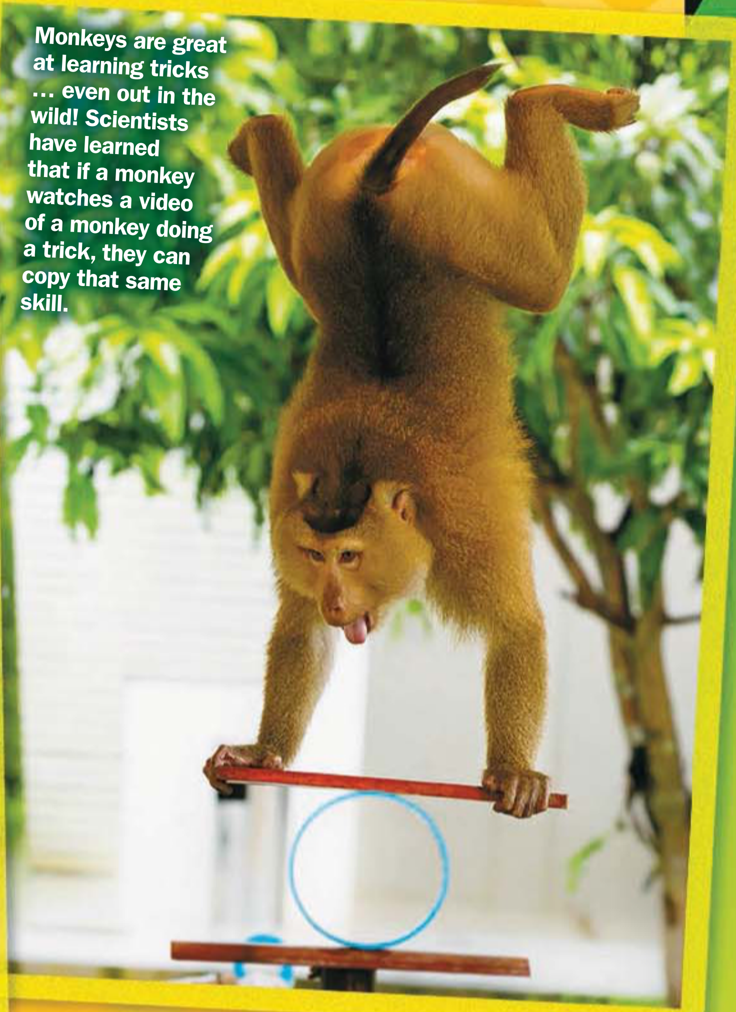
THREE DOGS PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; SUSAN B SHELDON/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALOHAHAWAII/SHUTTERSTOCK; FABIO SPEZIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; RITA KOCHMARJOVA/ SHUTTERSTOCK; DMITRII EREKHINSKII/SHUTTERSTOCK

Cats may not have thumbs like we do, yet many of them figure out how to open doors. How do they do it? By watching you! Cats are such intelligent and observant animals that they figure out how to turn the door handle and open it by watching humans do the same thing.

Teaching dogs to balance things on their nose is all about teaching them to be patient. Their snouts are long enough to easily balance treats … the hard part is training them not to eat in the treats too early!



Yep, turtles can easily stand on their hind legs! Though they don't do it often, turtles will stand on their back two legs to explore, reach for food or alert other turtles of nearby danger.



Monkeys are great at learning tricks … even out in the wild! Scientists have learned that if a monkey watches a video of a monkey doing a trick, they can copy that same skill.

So You Want to Get a

RAGDOLL!

You'll love spending time with this cuddly breed!

PERSONALITY

Ragdolls are not your typical cat breed! While many cats have a reputation for enjoying alone time, ragdolls aren't like that. They're friendly, affectionate and love being around people. In fact, they're known for having dog-like personalities. They're the perfect cat for someone who wants a pet that's going to give them a lot of attention!

FEATURES

Ragdolls are one of the largest breeds of domestic cats around! Their other unique characteristics are their big, blue eyes — all purebred ragdolls have them. Ragdolls can come in a variety of colors and color patterns, but all kittens are born white.

VET CARE

Like humans, ragdolls need regular checkups at the vet. Vets are important because they will check your cat for things you may not notice. They can also do things like clean your ragdoll's teeth. A once-a-year checkup is perfect for healthy ragdolls.

ACTIVITY

Ragdoll cats are calm, but they do like some activity! They enjoy climbing, chasing insects and even being walked on leashes. They're very smart cats, which means they can be trained to do things like come, give paw and fetch. (We told you they're a lot like dogs!)

FOOD

These cats have very long fur, which means they're prone to getting hairballs. Keeping bowl of fresh water available to them at all times will help with that. Because they are so big, ragdolls need lots of food. Look out for cat food that's high in protein, which will help them stay strong.

GROOMING

A ragdoll's fur doesn't get matted easily, so they don't need a lot of grooming. Brushing their coats twice a week is enough to keep them well-groomed. They will need their claws to be trimmed regularly. As long as they don't get dirty, they don't need to be bathed. However, unlike most cats, ragdolls tend to like water!

FUN FACT

Wondering where ragdolls got their name? It's because they are known to let their bodies go limp and relaxed when humans pick them up. It's similar to the way a ragdoll toy would look if you picked it up!

Supplies You'll Need!

Stock up on these essentials.

Royal Canin Ragdoll Breed Adult Dry Cat Food, 7-Pound Bag, $34, chewy.com

Arm & Hammer Rimmed Wave Cat Litter Pan, $20, amazon.com

Trixie Cabra Sky Cat Bed with Scratching Post, $40, petsmart.com

Scoop Away Complete Performance Fresh Scented Clumping Clay Cat Litter, $26, chewy.com

Catit Flower Plastic Cat Fountain, $28, chewy.com

Whisker City Jellyfish Teaser Cat Toy, $8, petsmart.com

ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK; NYNKE VAN HOLTEN/SHUTTERSTOCK; MICHAL BEDNAREK/SHUTTERSTOCK

Which holiday movi

DIRECTIONS: Circle the five words that sound the most like you, then count them up. The color you circled most reveals the movie you should watch!

Smart

Adventurous

Shy

Dog lover

Unique

Daring

Playful

Cheerful

Silly

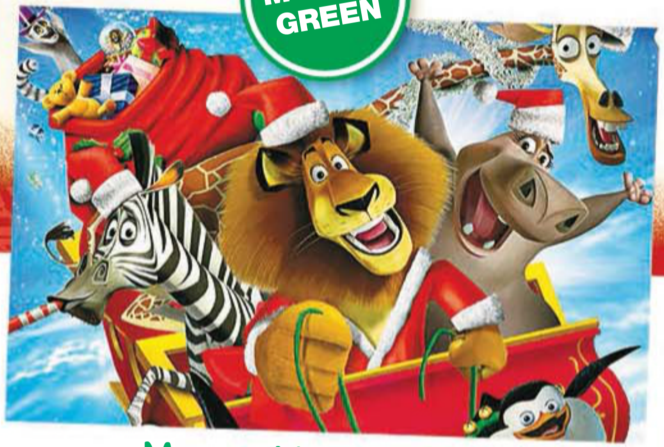
Outgoing

MOSTLY RED

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

This classic tale tells the story of Rudolph, Santa's youngest reindeer, who tries to fit in when he's born to stand out! You'll love it because Rudolph's unique qualities are what make him so great at leading Santa's sleigh.

MOSTLY GREEN



Merry Madagascar

The gang from *Madagascar* — Gloria, Alex, Melman and Marty — are back for a holiday special! This movie is the right pick for you because the animals go on an exciting adventure to help save Christmas. Oh, and did we mention that it's also super-funny?!

e should you watch?

Thoughtful

Determined

Friendly

Good friend

Loud

Creative

Clumsy

Curious

Patient

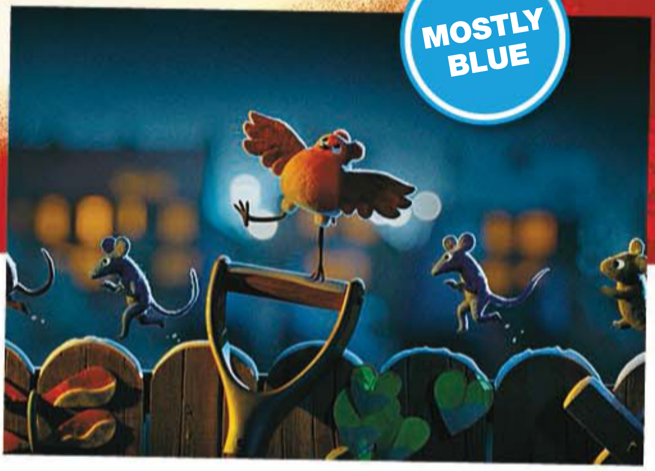
Loyal

MOSTLY PURPLE

The Search for Santa Paws

When Santa's puppy, Paws, is dognapped in New York City, a group of kids come together to find him. This sweet movie is one you'll enjoy because Paws is so adorable! You'll wish you could be one of the kids working to save the day.

MOSTLY BLUE



Robin Robin

Robin isn't like your usual birds … she was raised by mice! The curious bird heads out on a mission to steal a shiny star and impress the people around her. You'll relate to her because she's determind to do a great job no matter what!

OLGA MOONLIGHT/SHUTTERSTOCK; CBS; DREAMWORKS; DISNEY; NETFLIX

Animal ANTICS

If these badly-behaved creatures could talk...

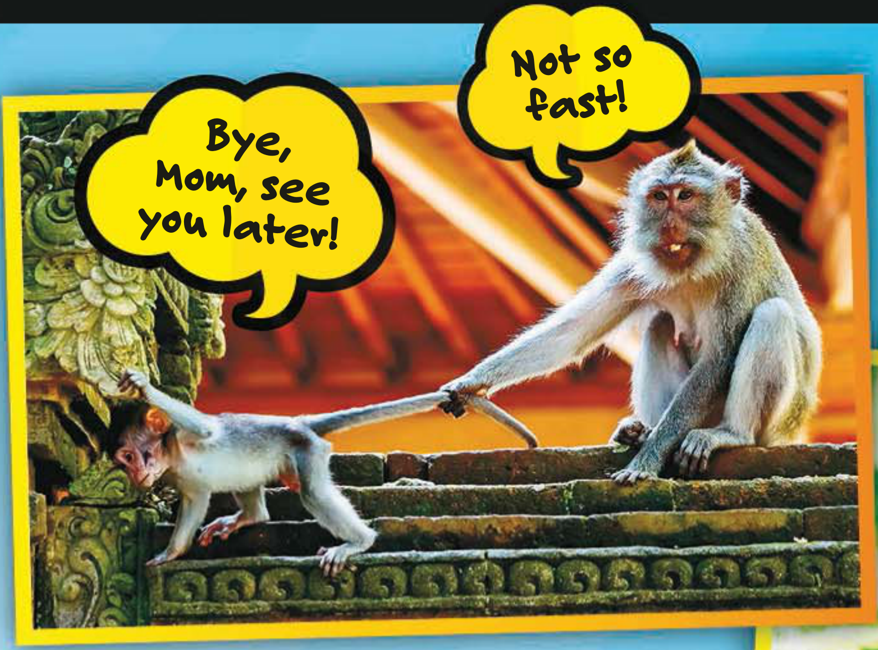
Sometimes elephants need a break, too!

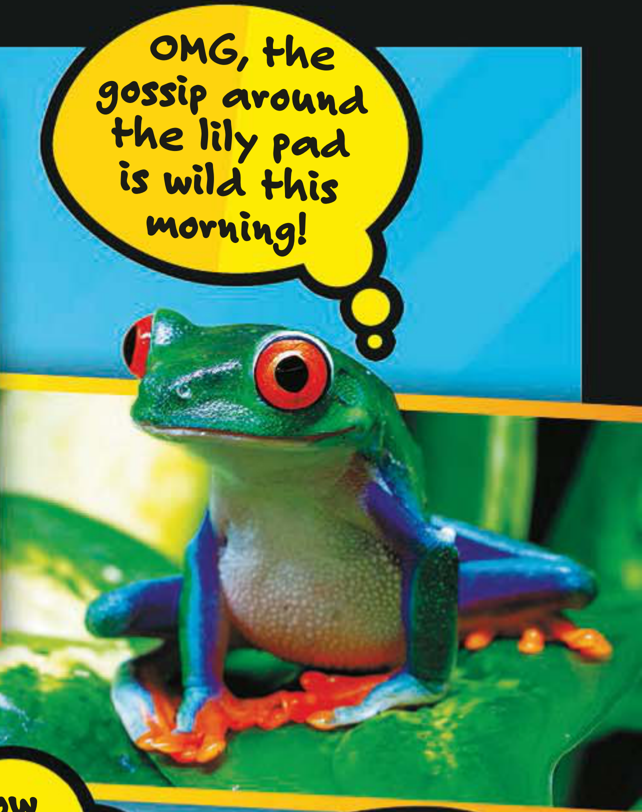
I don't care what Dad says, I think it's fine to go swimming right after eating!
He's gonna regret that!
Especially when Dad finds out!

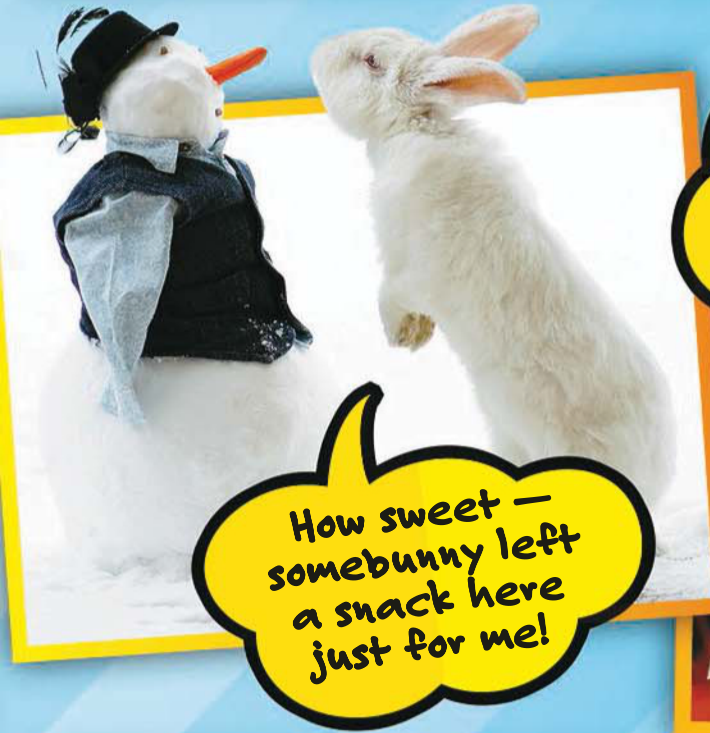
SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

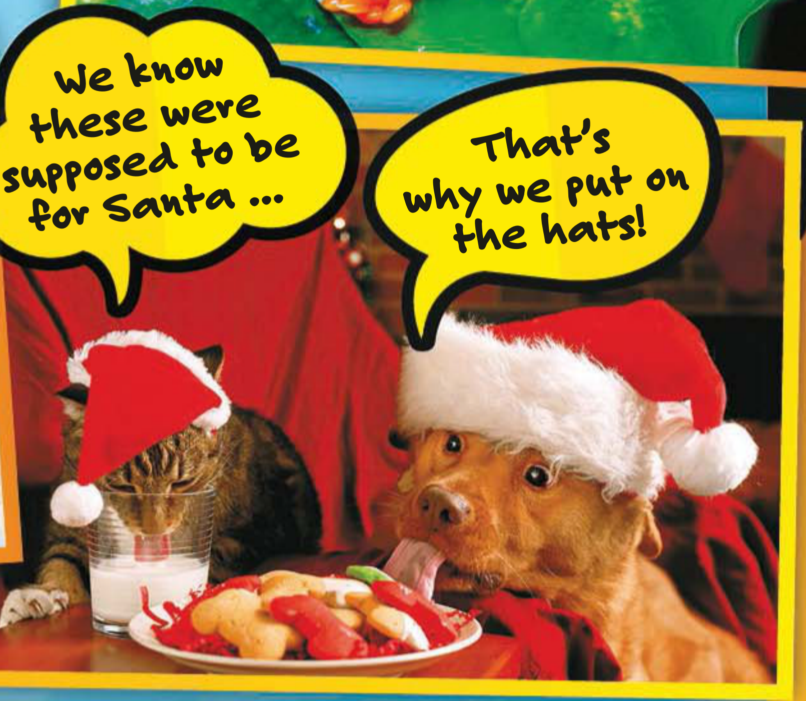
Send us a picture of your pet behaving badly, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com or send it to *Animal Tales*, Animal Antics, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

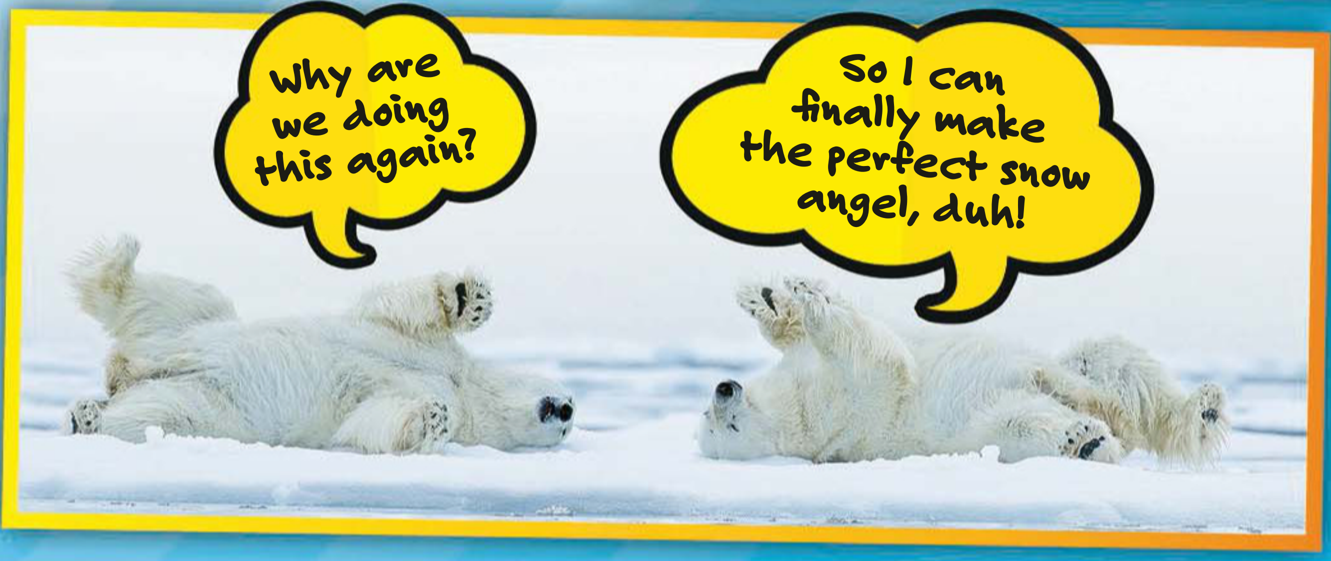
TREISDORFPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANTON IVANOV/SHUTTERSTOCK TATIANA POPOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; BRANDON ALMS/SHUTTERSTOCK; VIKTOR STARK/SHUTTERSTOCK; MICHAEL PETTIGREW/SHUTTERSTOCK; ONDREJ PROSICKY/SHUTTERSTOCK


Bye, Mom, see you later!
Not so fast!


OMG, the gossip around the lily pad is wild this morning!


How sweet — somebunny left a snack here just for me!


We know these were supposed to be for Santa ...
That's why we put on the hats!


Why are we doing this again?
So I can finally make the perfect snow angel, duh!

Feature

Animal ADA

You'll be surprised to learn the crazy things animals do in order to survive!

OKAPIS STOMP THEIR SCENT!

Okapis have a unique way of staying alive! To let their fellow okapis know where they are, they have scent glands in their feet that let out sticky tar-like goo as they walk. This goo is a way of marking their territory.

AFRICAN SPINY MICE HEAL LIKE SUPERHEROES!

African spiny mice have ultra-thin skin that gives them their superpower! Though mice are common prey animals, these mice have skin that can be easily torn, so if they're grabbed by an animal, it can tear away. Not to worry, their injuries heal very quickly, and their skin can regenerate so that they're good as new!

WOOD FROGS FREEZE THEIR BODIES!

When the weather gets cold, Alaskan wood frogs don't try to get warm, nope, these creatures simply allow themselves to freeze! Around 60% of their bodies will go frozen. Their hearts stop beating and they don't breathe, and yet, they don't die! When winter is over and the temperatures go up, the frogs defrost and go right back to their normal lives.

MICHAL SLOVIAK/SHUTTERSTOCK; VIKTOR LOKI/SHUTTERSTOCK; JINDRICH PAVELKA/SHUTTERSTOCK; ARIES SUTANTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; SVETLA ILIEVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; ADAM WILDLIFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

PTATIONS!

CAMELS BLINK AWAY SAND!

Take a look at those glamorous eyelashes! When you spend your days walking through the dry, sandy desert, you need some protection. Luckily, camels have two rows of extra-long eyelashes that work to keep the sand out. They work almost like windshield wipers to dust away any sand that could get in and hurt their eyes.

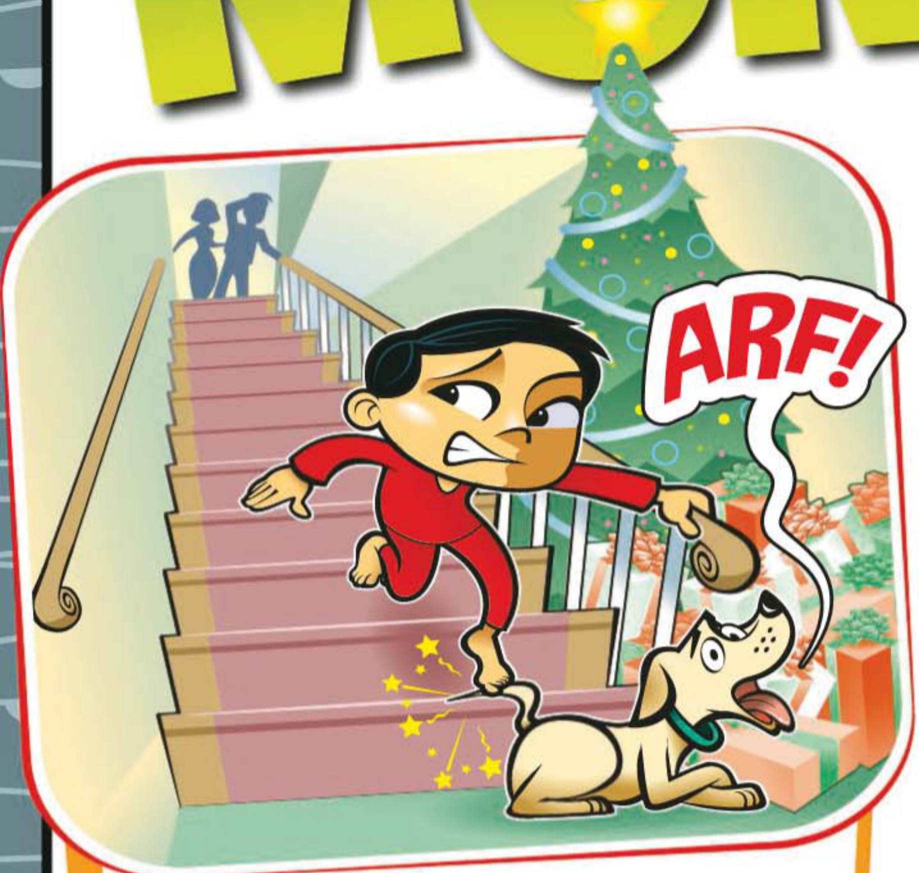
PUFFERFISH GET SUPERSIZED!

Predators beware! If you get too close to a pufferfish, they'll make you regret it. They have the ability to double their size by puffing up and forming spikes, which scares away anyone trying to eat them. They get their puffiness through their stretchy stomachs that can inflate with water.

DOLPHINS TEACH FISHERMEN HOW TO FISH!

Follow that dolphin! In the Southeast Asian country Myanmar, the Irrawaddy dolphin has figured out a great way to get food. The dolphins will lead schools of fish toward fishermen, then call out to let them know where to cast their nets. When the nets go underwater, the schools of fish separate, making it easier for the dolphins to catch their own dinner!

Embarrassing MOMEN



Tail trouble

Late on Christmas Eve night, I decided to sneak downstairs to get a peek of the gifts Santa left under the tree. I was creeping down the stairs slowly, trying not to make a sound. I had nearly made it all the way down when I accidentally stepped on my dog Bruno's tail. He had been sleeping at the bottom of the stairs, and I didn't even see him there! Of course, Bruno barked so loudly that my parents woke up and I got yelled at. Yep, that's the last time I'll try to sneak a peek at the Christmas gifts!

— Christopher, WV

Rowdy reindeer

My family went on a trip to a reindeer farm to celebrate the holidays! I was so excited to feed the reindeer. I grabbed a cup of food, but when my cup was empty, one of the reindeer was still hungry. That's when he grabbed my scarf with his mouth and started chewing it! I started yanking it back, but the reindeer had a tight grip. A helper at the farm had to come over and convince the reindeer to let go. Next time I'm going keep more food close by!

— Jackson, WA

Snake scare

During a school assembly, a reptile expert brought us a bunch of cool animals to learn about. At the end of the assembly, my classmates and I got to line up and touch some of the animals. I was nervous because they had a huge snake for us to hold, but I tried to be brave. Too bad that didn't work out! I screamed when I got close to the snake. Everyone in the room looked at me, and the expert said she had to put away the snake because I scared it!

— Gia, NJ

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARK COLLINS

Sometimes our furry friends cause crazy catastrophes!

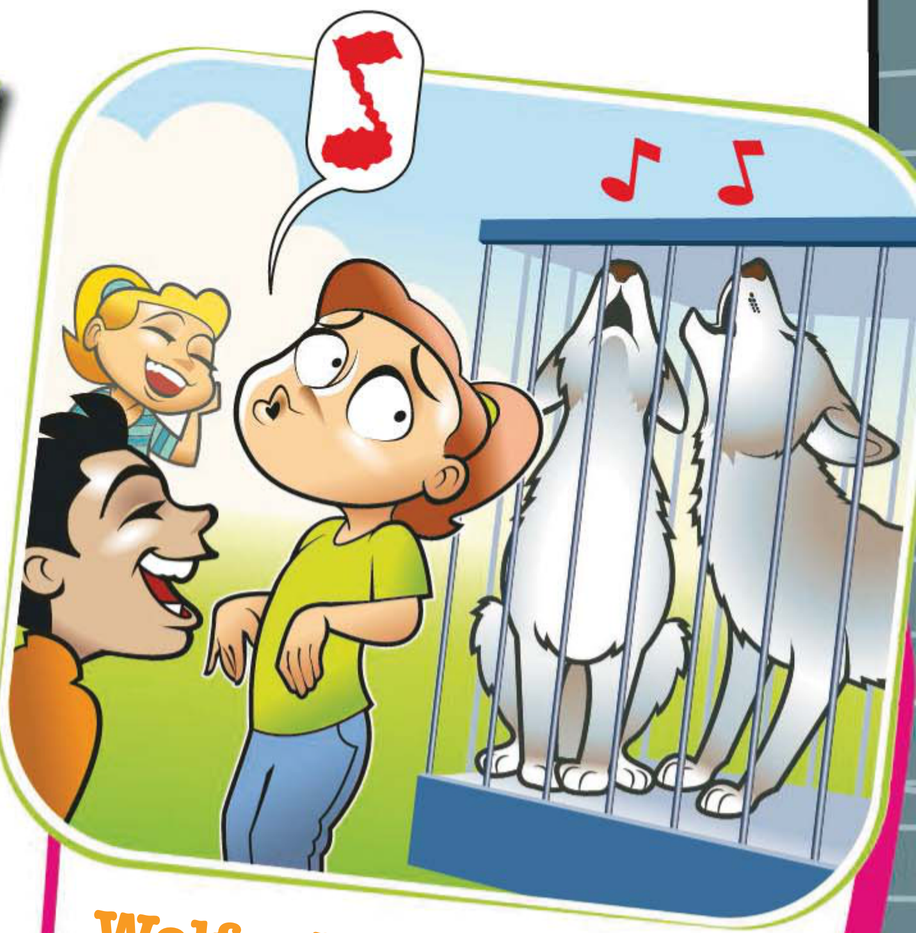
TS!

Doggie dupe

I love dogs so much! Whenever I see one outside, I always ask their owner if I can pet them. One time, I saw this very cute little dog was sitting next to their human. As I walked in their direction, the dog started wagging her tail at me. "Aw, you're excited to meet me," I said to the pup, but her human made a weird face. That's when I realized the dog wasn't excited to see me — she was excited to see her other human, who was behind me and also walking in their direction! — **Michelle, GA**

Cat camo

Charlie, my cat, is so good at hiding in the most unexpected places. One morning, I made a bowl of cereal, and was heading to the living room to watch cartoons. On my way, Charlie jumped out from behind a little pile of bags. I was so surprised to see him that I lost hold on my cereal bowl and it spilled to the ground! I was pretty upset about it, but Charlie was perfectly happy — he got to drink up my milk and eat the cereal mess. Yep, he's one sneaky cat! — **Arthur, CA**



Wolf whisperer

My friends and I went to a wolf sanctuary in our town. I was very surprised to see that the wolves there were mellow, and not scary at all. We took pictures with a bunch of them, and got to know some of their stories and personalities. While we were posing for pictures, I was being silly, and pretended to be a wolf — I even howled for all of my friends. That's when two of the wolves surprised me by howling right back! I jump up and ran away, feeling totally spooked. My friends thought it was hilarious. They gave me the nickname Wolf Queen that day — and they won't stop using it! — **Everleigh, FL**

KEY

Totally embarrassing!

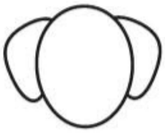
Don't show your face for a while!

Yikes! You'll never live that down!

Festive FURRY FRIENDS

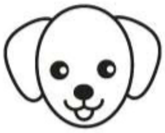
’Tis the season for this drawing lesson!

Wrapped in lights



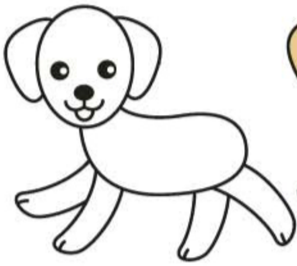
1

Begin by creating an oval head. Add two rounded triangular ears on the sides.



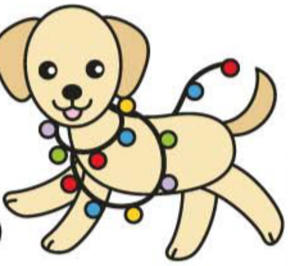
2

Draw two dark circles for eyes with white pupils inside. Add an oval nose, a w-shaped mouth and a half-oval tongue.



3

Sketch a long, rounded body. Add four long legs that curve forward. Draw a line on each paw.

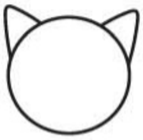


4

Draw a crescent-shaped tail. Add a curvy line around the dog’s neck and body, the sketch circles on it to make lights. Color!

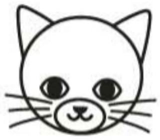
Your drawing here!

Stocking stuffer



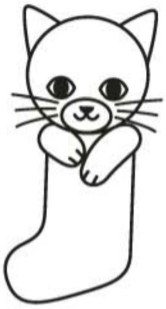
1

Draw a circular head with triangular ears on top of it.



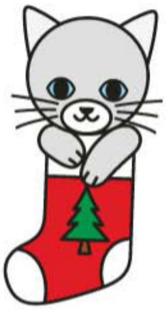
2

Sketch almond-shaped eyes with oval pupils inside. Draw a half-circle nose, w-shaped mouth and an oval surrounding them both. Add six whiskers.



3

Add a J-shaped stocking underneath the cat’s face. Draw to rounded front legs with two lines on each paw.

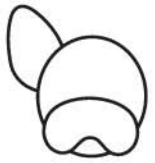


4

Create a Christmas tree shape on the center of the stocking. Color your kitten!

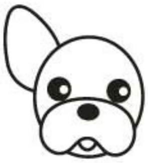
Your drawing here!

Santa paws



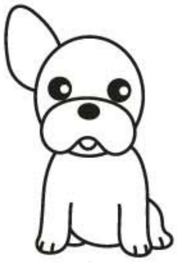
1

Start with an oval-shaped head and a petal-shaped left ear. Add an upside-down jellybean-shaped muzzle.



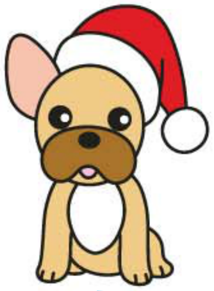
2

Draw two black circular eyes with white pupils. Sketch an oval nose on the muzzle and a half-oval tongue underneath it.



3

Create a rounded body with rounded legs and a curved stomach. Add lines on each paw.

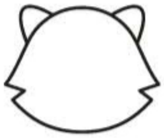


4

Sketch a petal shape on the stomach. Draw a Santa hat on top of the dog's head. Color your creation!

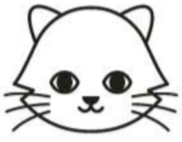
Your drawing here!

Reindeer kitten



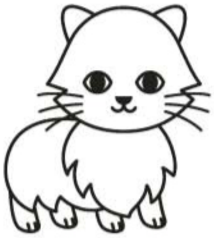
1

Draw a rounded head with two triangular indents on the sides. Sketch two rounded ears.



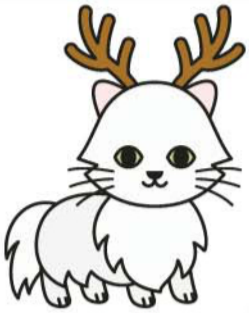
2

Add two almond-shaped eyes with oval pupils. Create a half-circle nose with a w-shaped mouth. Draw four slanted whiskers.



3

Sketch a front tuft of fur with jagged edges. Add a rounded body behind it with jagged bottoms. Draw four paws.

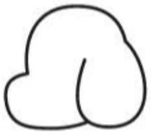


4

Create a furry tail with jagged edges. Draw reindeer antlers on top of the kitten's head. Color everything!

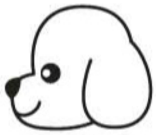
Your drawing here!

Ugly sweater pup



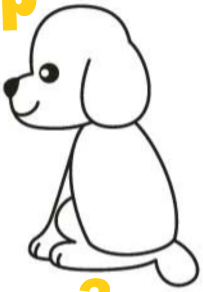
1

Draw a half-circle. Attach it to a snout on the left side and a rounded ear on the right side.



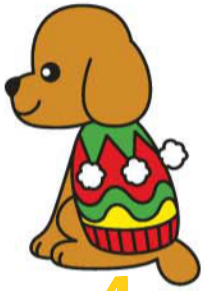
2

Add a black circular eye with a white pupil inside, a triangular nose and curved line smile.



3

Draw a rounded body that's wider at the bottom. Add a straight left leg, curved right leg and a rounded tail.



4

For the sweater, create a jagged collar with pom-poms on the points. Add a curvy horizontal line underneath and vertical lines beneath that. Color!

Your drawing here!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NAOKO MATSUNAGA; BKGD: ELVETICA/SHUTTERSTOCK

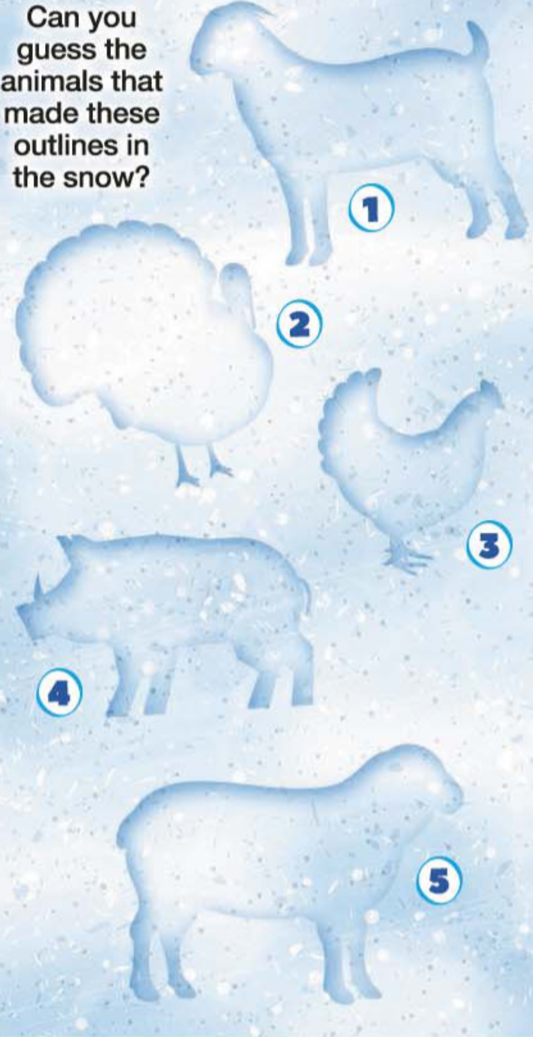
UP-ROAR-IOUS FUN

Animal Tales makes games just for critter lovers like you!

See answers on page 85.

ANiMAL SNOW ANGELS

Can you guess the animals that made these outlines in the snow?



Polar Bear Puzzle

Polar bears are cool creatures! Solve the equations below to learn more about them.

Where do polar bears live?

THAW + GREY – AWGR = _ _ _ _

BUZZ + WILD – ZZW = _ _ _ _ _

DENTS – T = _ _ _ _

WIT + HER – ER = _ _ _ _

SEVEN + RURAL – NRU = _ _ _ _ _ _ _

ROOTS + MESS – TSES = _ _ _ _ _

How do polar bears find food?

BATHE + YO – BAO = _ _ _ _

HI + AVENUE – INUE = _ _ _ _

DANCE – DNCE = _

STRIKE + LONG – IKEL = _ _ _ _ _ _

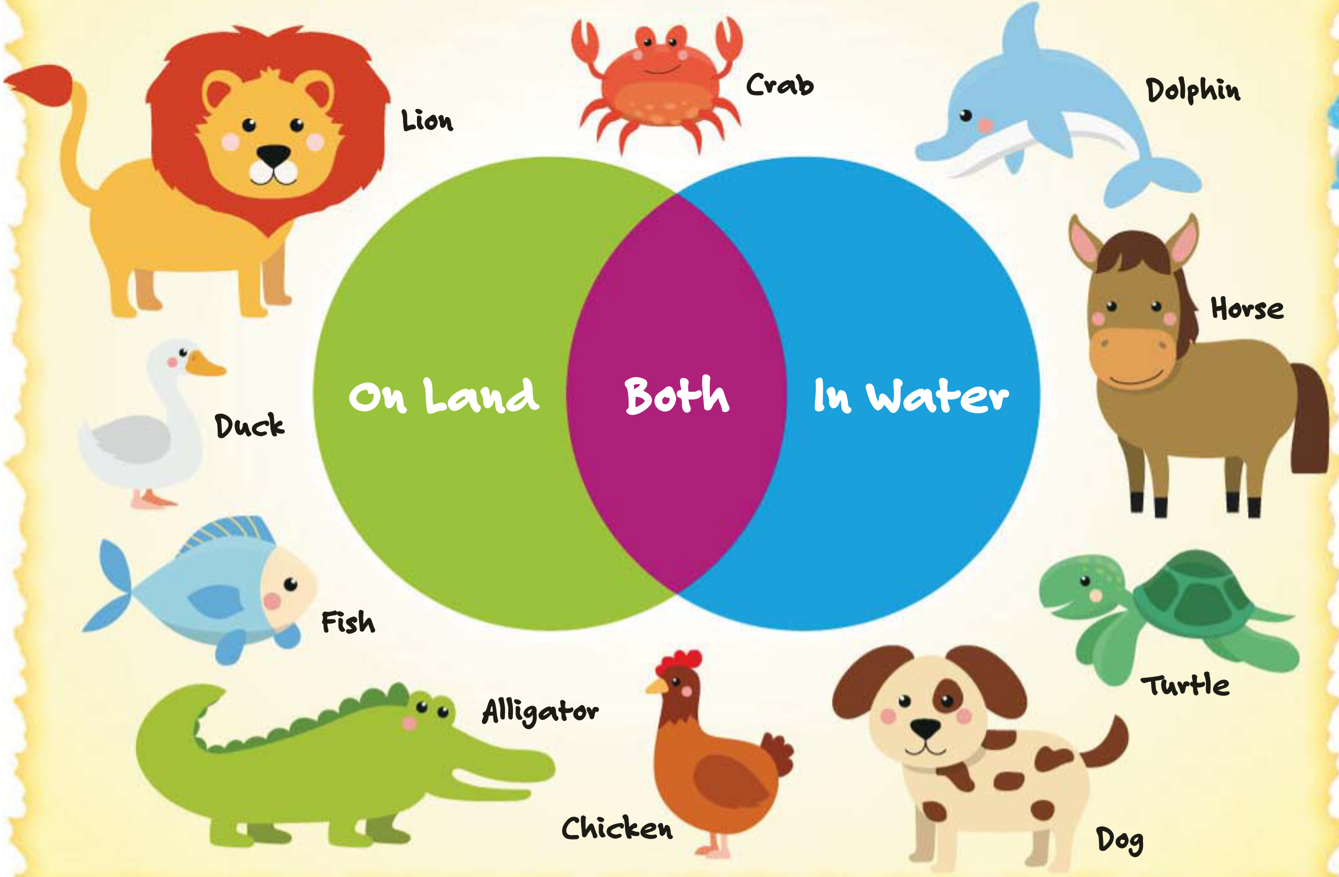
SEND + NOSE – DNO = _ _ _ _ _

GOLF – GL = _ _

SMART + BELL – ARTB = _ _ _ _ _

WHERE'S MY HABITAT?

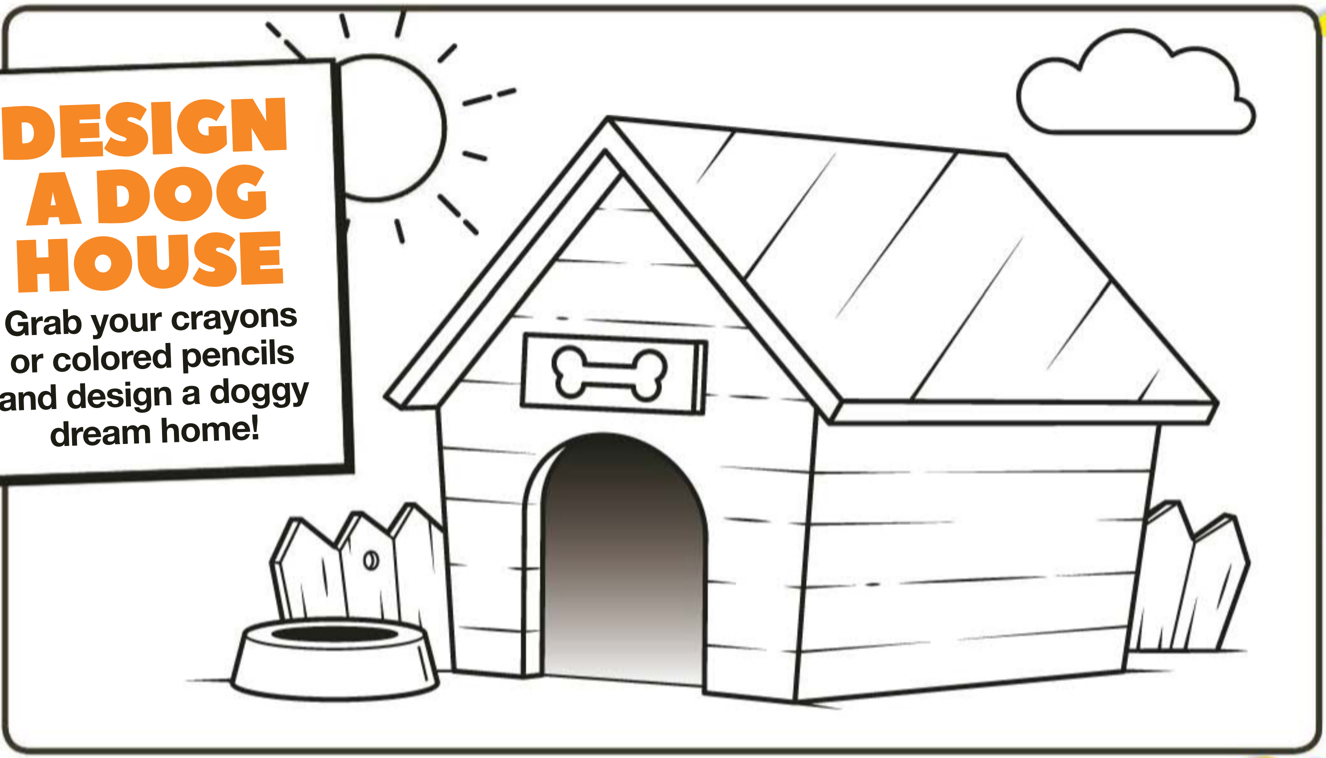
Draw a line from each animal to its correct section of the Venn diagram!


Lion
Crab
Dolphin
Horse
On Land
Both
In Water
Duck
Fish
Alligator
Chicken
Dog
Turtle

MARINAT197/SHUTTERSTOCK; VLAD KLOK/SHUTTERSTOCK; KARPENKO_ILIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANDREANITA/SHUTTERSTOCK; BISCOTTO DESIGN/SHUTTERSTOCK; ZORAN MILIC/SHUTTERSTOCK

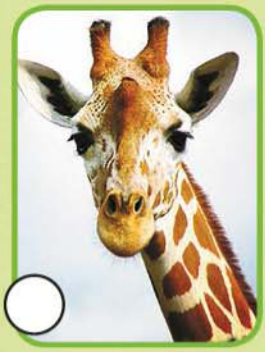
DESIGN A DOG HOUSE

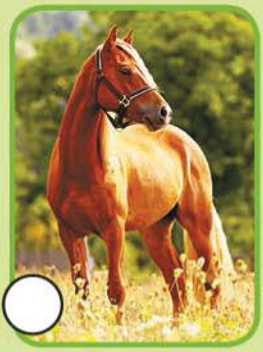
Grab your crayons or colored pencils and design a doggy dream home!

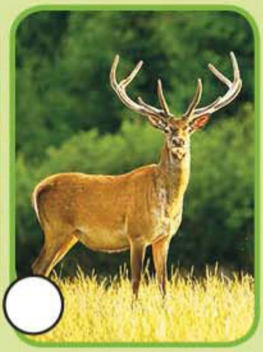


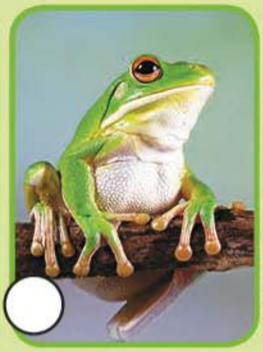
THE PERFECT PRESENT

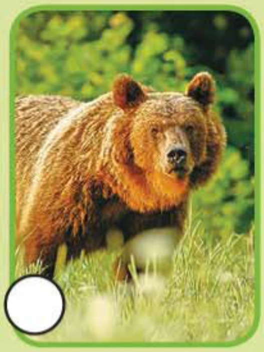
Match the critter to the snack they'd put on their holiday wish list!

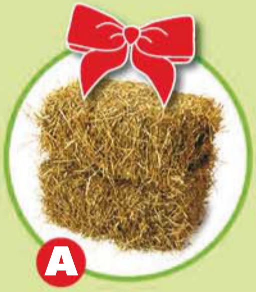

○ **1.** Giraffe

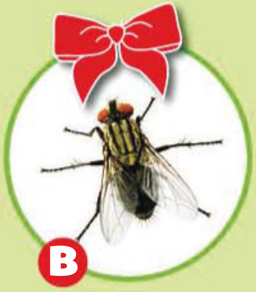

○ **2.** Horse

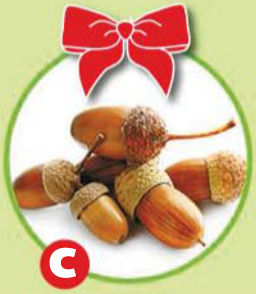

○ **3.** Deer

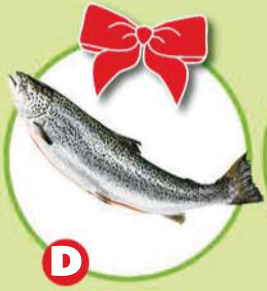

○ **4.** Frog

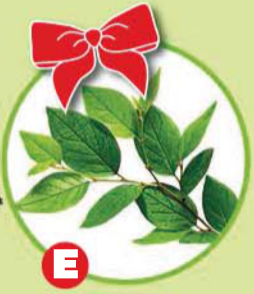

○ **5.** Brown bear


A


B

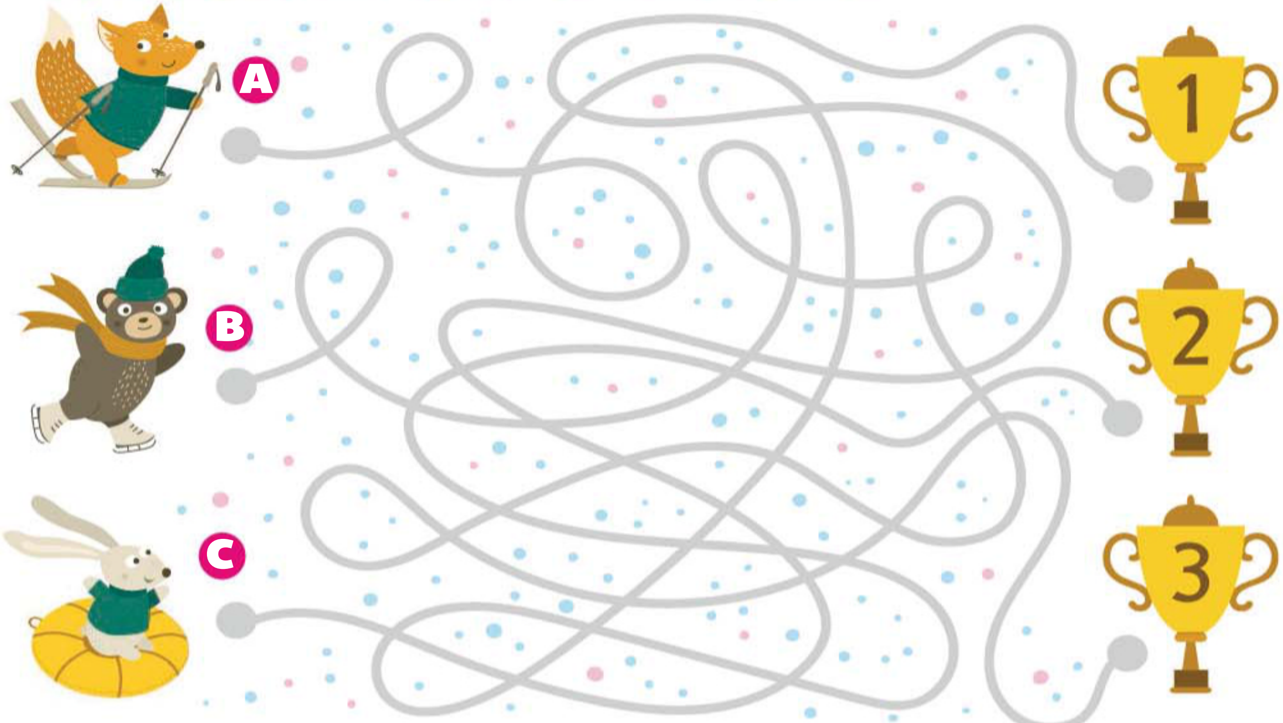

C


D


E

A RACE ON SKATES

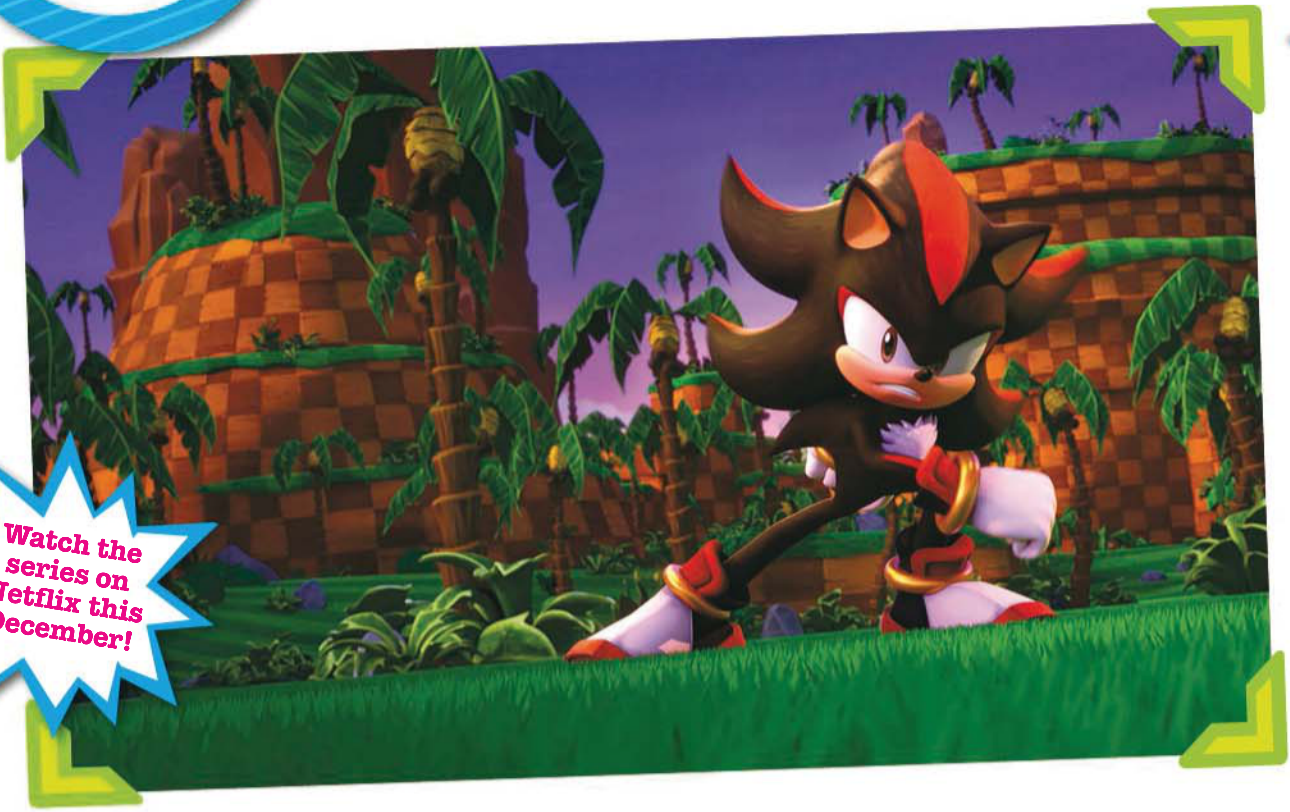
Which animal finished in first place?

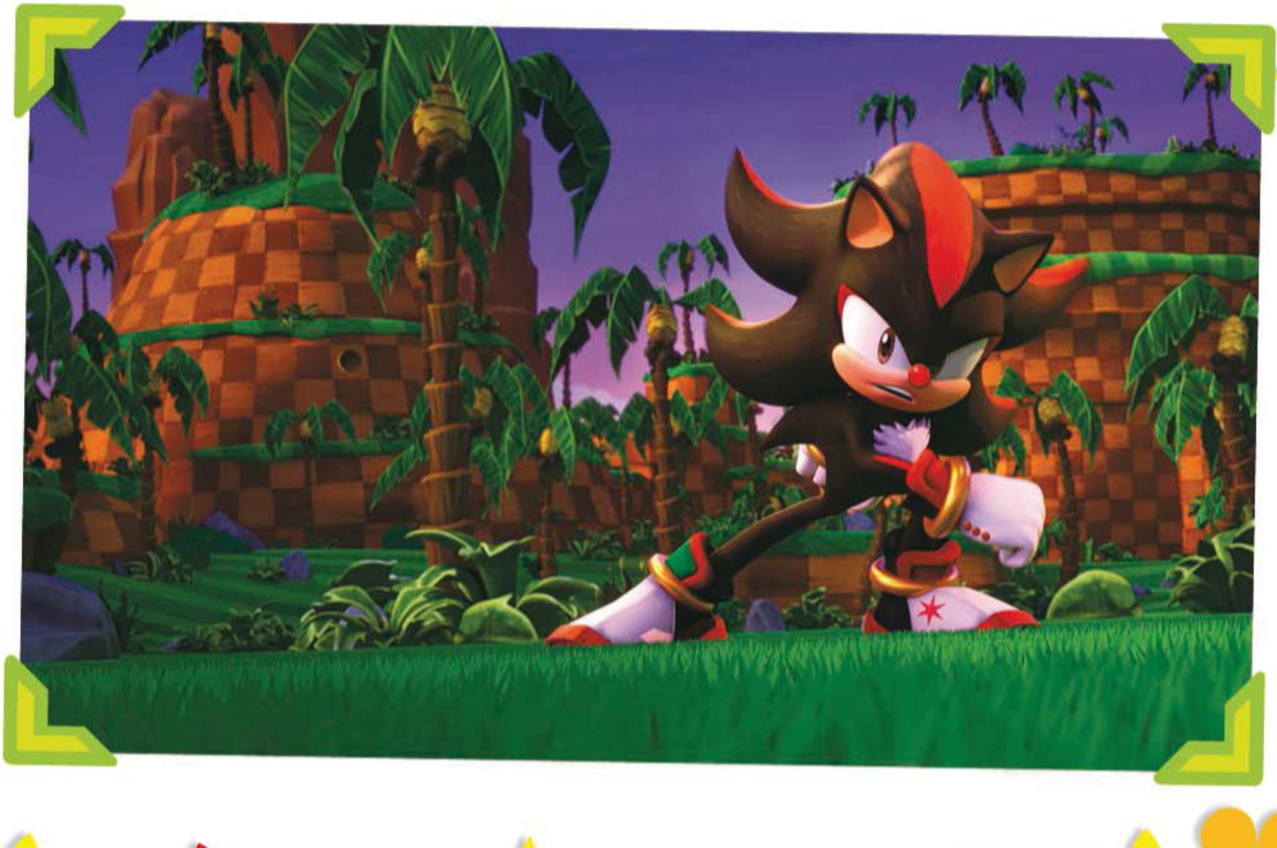


SPOT the differences!

Can you find and circle the 10 things that have changed in the second picture from *Sonic Prime*?

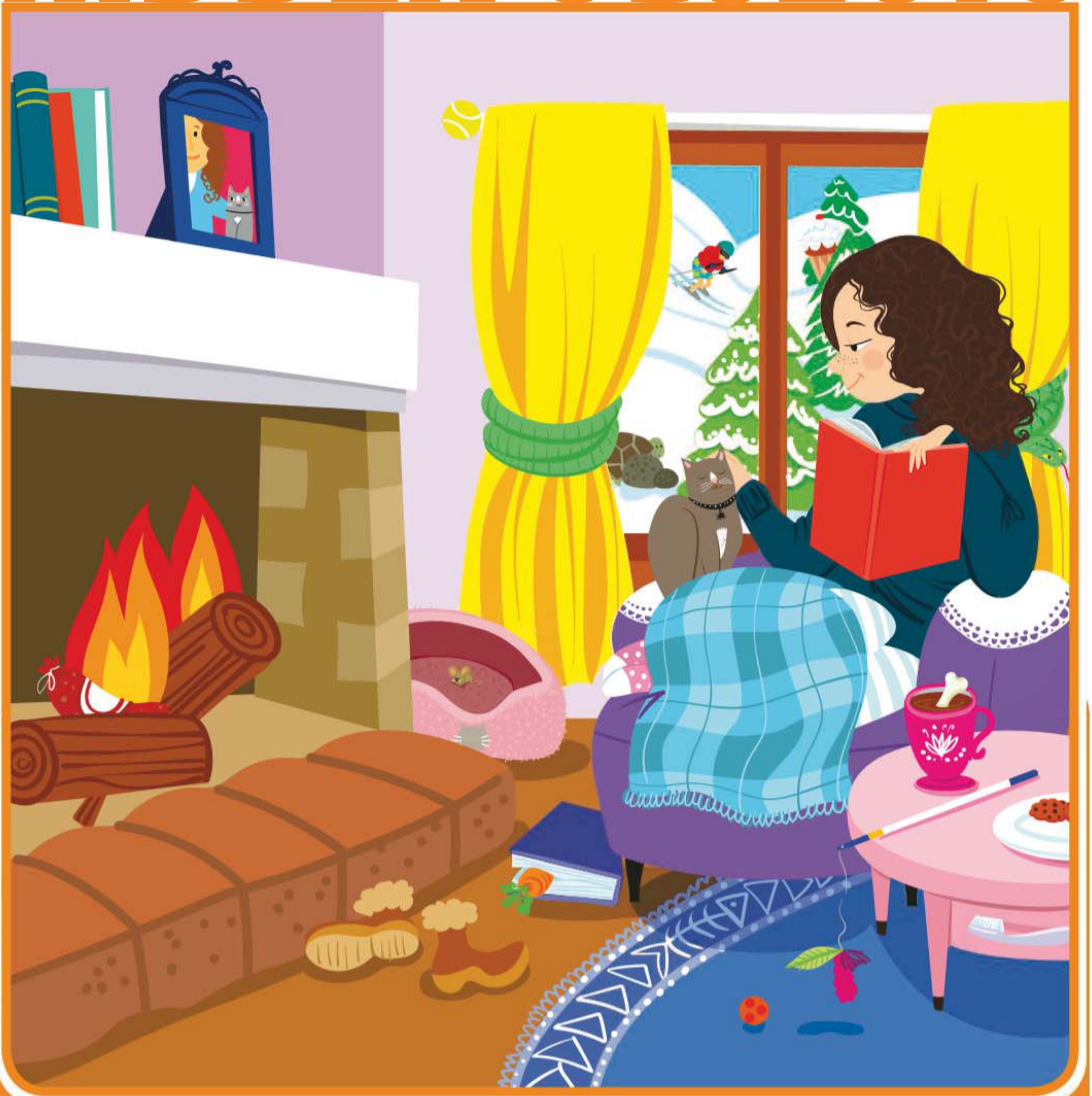
Watch the series on Netflix this December!





GR8T SHOTS/SHUTTERSTOCK; HELGA MADAJOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; WILDMEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; KURIT AFSHEN/SHUTTERSTOCK; GERGOSZ/SHUTTERSTOCK; FILIP WARULIK/SHUTTERSTOCK; IRIN-K/SHUTTERSTOCK; NEW AFRICA/SHUTTERSTOCK; CELTSTUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; ORTIS/SHUTTERSTOCK; TISHA ARDIS/SHUTTERSTOCK; LEXI CLAUS/SHUTTERSTOCK; COURTESY OF NETFLIX (2)

FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS



LOOK CLOSELY AND SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT THE FOLLOWING:
tennis ball, cupcake, swim trunks, tortoise, snake, spider, bone, toothbrush, carrot, sausage, mouse, fish skeleton

ILLUSTRATION: NATHALIE BEAUVOIS; CAROLYN SMITH1/SHUTTERSTOCK

HILARIOUS JOKES

These are owl funny!

Who's a penguin's favorite aunt?
Aunt Arctica!

What's a mouse's favorite game?
Hide and squeak!

Why was the cat afraid of the tree?
Because of its bark!

Why did the whale cross the road?
To get to the other tide!

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a dog?
Frost bite!

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert?
Lost!

Knock-knock time

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
PANTHER!
Panther who?
MY **PANTHER** FALLING DOWN!

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
MONKEY!
Monkey who?
MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO!

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
GIRAFFE!
Giraffe who?
GIRAFFE ANYTHING TO EAT? I'M STARVING!

ANSWERS

ANIMAL SNOW ANGELS
1. Goat
2. Turkey
3. Chicken
4. Boar
5. Sheep

POLAR BEAR PUZZLE
1. They build dens with several rooms.
2. They have a strong sense of smell.

WHERE'S MY HABITAT?

Water animals:
Fish
Dolphin

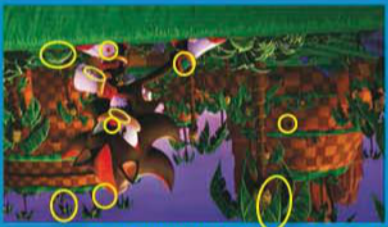
Land animals:
Dog
Lion
Chicken
Horse

Both:
Duck
Alligator
Turtle
Crab

THE PERFECT PRESENT

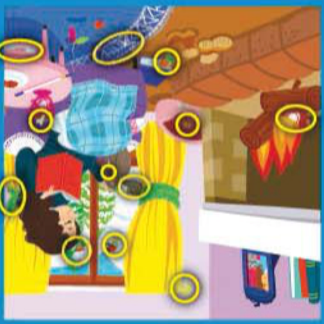
1. E 3. C 5. D
2. A 4. B

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



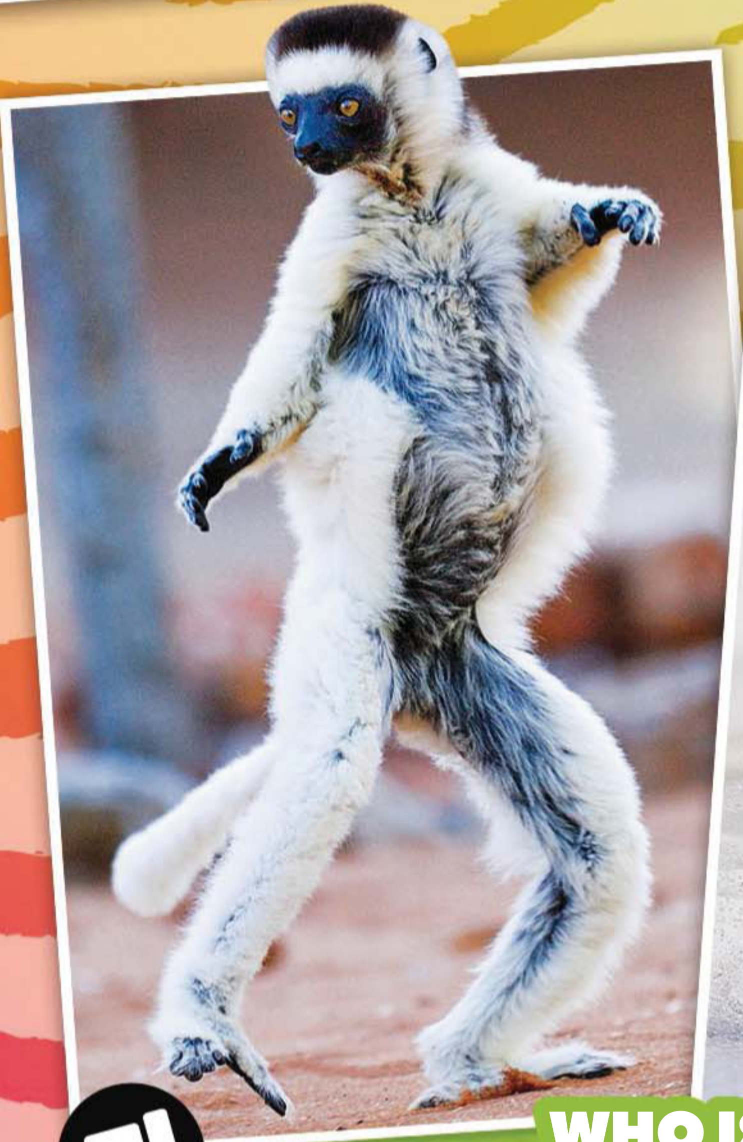
A RACE ON SKATES
1st Place: C
2nd Place: A
3rd Place: B

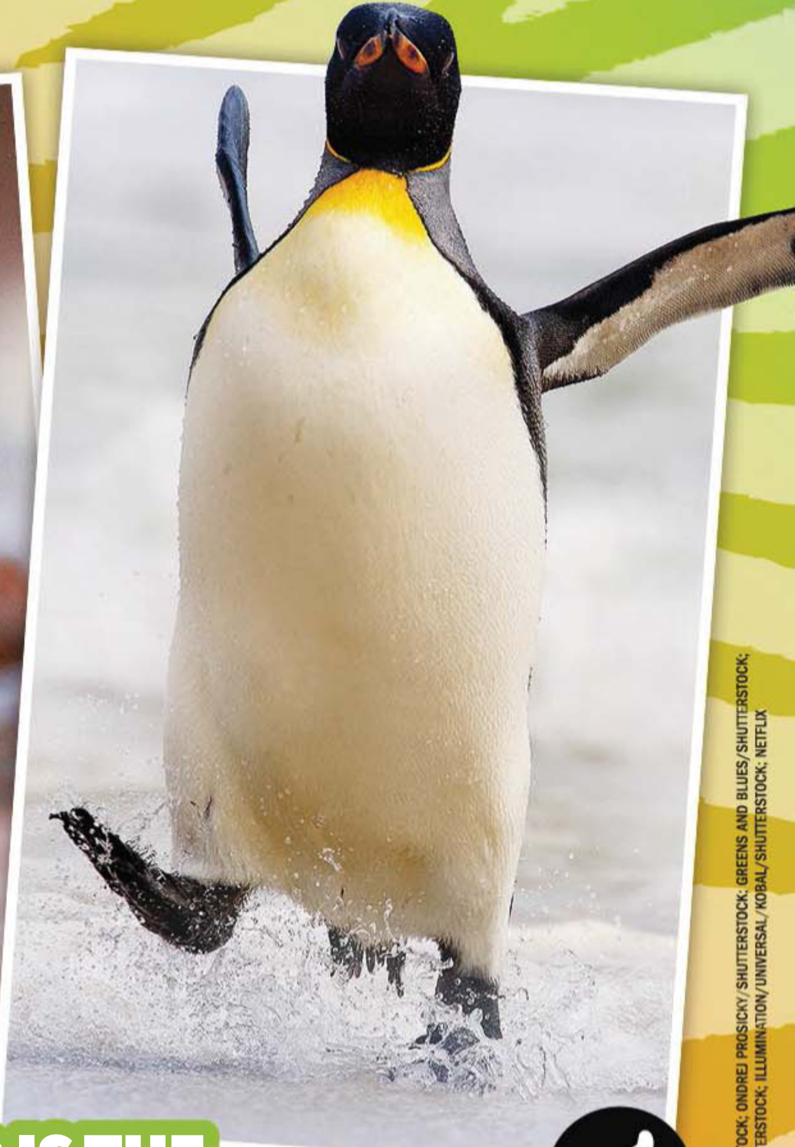
FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS



Animal FACE-OFF

The competition was fierce, but somebody had to win!





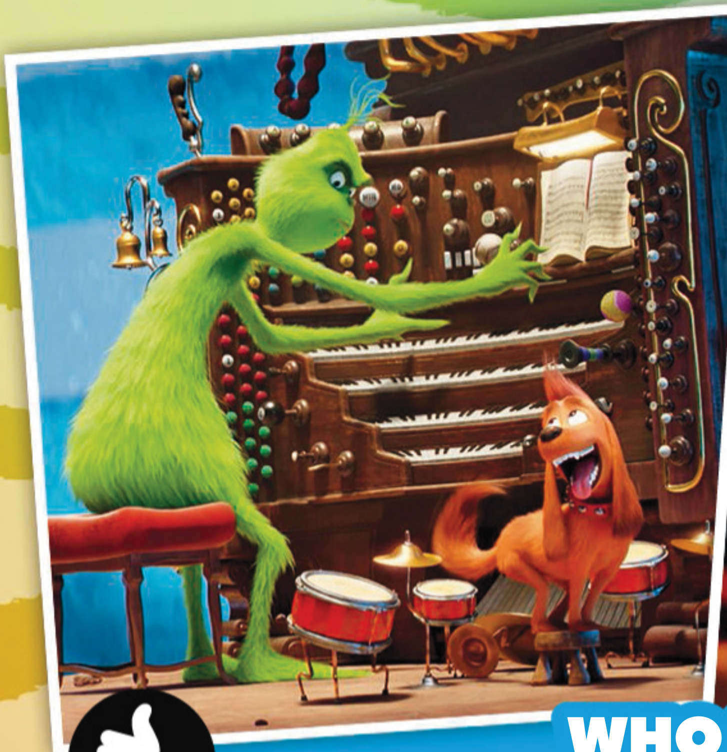
WHO IS THE jumping jack master?

Uh, we're not sure that lemur has ever seen someone do a jumping jack before! The penguin, on the other hand, has excellent form, which is why it's our winner!

HUGH LANSDOWN/SHUTTERSTOCK; ONDREJ PROSICKY/SHUTTERSTOCK; GREENS AND BLUES/SHUTTERSTOCK; WIRESTOCK CREATORS/SHUTTERSTOCK; ILLUMINATION/UNIVERSAL/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; NETFLIX

WHO IS BEST AT
hide and seek?

That heron would certainly be the last one in their hiding spot during a game of hide and seek — it looks practically invisible thanks to its camouflage.



WHO IS THE
best holiday sidekick?

We love it when Miika learns to speak, and he makes a great friend to Nikolas, but, come on, Max is so perfect that even a grump like the Grinch can't help but love him!

WHO IS HAVING A BETTER New Year's celebration?

Five, four, three, two, one ... the puppy wins! Sorry, but that cat does not look happy to be celebrating the New Year — talk about a party pooper!

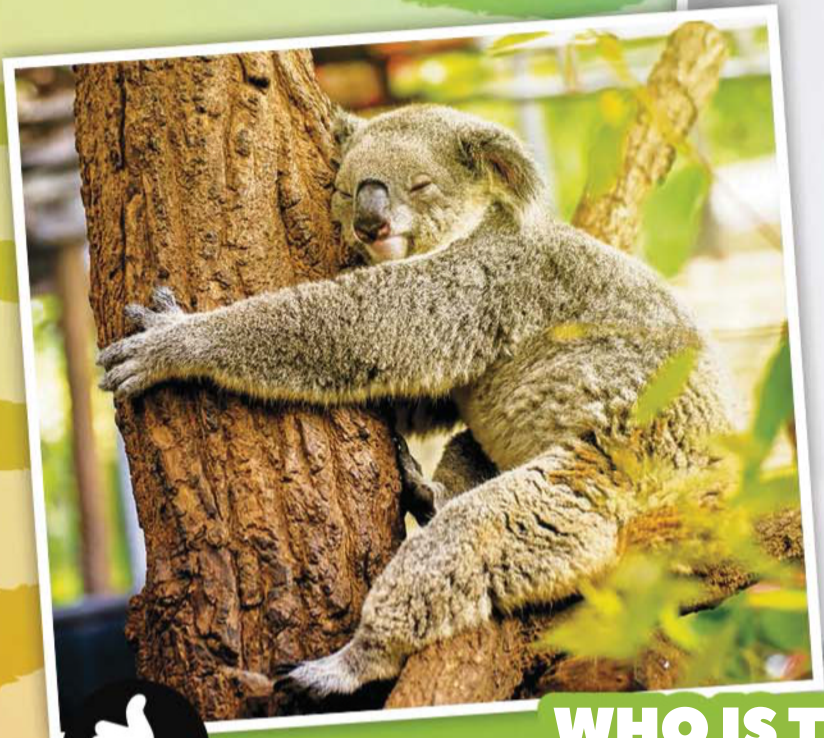
WHO HAS A better snow fort?

Wow, both of these secret snowy lairs look so fun to visit, but we have to give this round to the pup — its icy spot reminds us of Elsa's ice castle!

DORA ZEIT/SHUTTERSTOCK; PATUSS89/SHUTTERSTOCK; PALAKORN JAIMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANASTASIIA CHERNIAVSKAIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; SEBASTIAN DUDA/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHINETERRA/SHUTTERSTOCK; MARTINHO SMART/SHUTTERSTOCK; EUMATES/SHUTTERSTOCK

WHO IS THE
best surprise gift?

Either one of these adorable gifts would take the top spot of greatest holiday gift, but if we really had to pick, we'd go with the kitten. That Santa hat is just too cute!



WHO IS THE
better tree hugger?

Both of these animals have an impressive grip, but the koala is so comfortable holding onto that tree that it actually fell asleep. For that reason, it wins!

Critter Q&A

Wondering about the wild and wonderful animal kingdom? You've come to the right place!

Do wild animals get cold in the wintertime?

— MICHAEL, 11, CO

They sure do! But, just like humans have ways to stay warm, like turning up the heat, wearing winter clothes and drinking hot drinks, animals have special techniques to survive dropping temperatures. Many wild animals need more energy to keep their bodies warm, so, in the months before winter, they'll load up on food. Some wild animals will huddle together to keep each other warm. Some migrate to warmer locations, while others dig underground dens to keep shelter or hibernate all winter long. Then, of course, there are animals that have winter coats thick enough to keep them warm, no matter the weather.

Do venomous animals know they're venomous towards other animals?

— PETAL, 12, CA

Yes and no! On one hand, research shows that when a venomous snake's body is running low on venom, they will use less until their body produces more. That must mean they know that they're venomous, right? Well, not exactly. You see, animals don't think the same way humans do. They don't understand what it means to be venomous. All they know is that when prey is near or a threat is close by, their way of defense is to bite.

Why do birds fly after one another?

— LUCY, 8, GA

If you see a bird being chased by another bird in the air, chances are it got a little too close to that bird's nest or food source. Birds are protective of their nest, especially if their babies are inside, so any uninvited guests will be swiftly chased away. Same goes for a bird that gets too close to another bird's food — they don't want to share!

PEYKER/SHUTTERSTOCK; MATT JEPPSON/SHUTTERSTOCK; ELOKU/SHUTTERSTOCK; CHIA CHUIN WONG/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALEKSANDR SIMONOV/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHANVOOD/SHUTTERSTOCK; ASTRID GAST/SHUTTERSTOCK

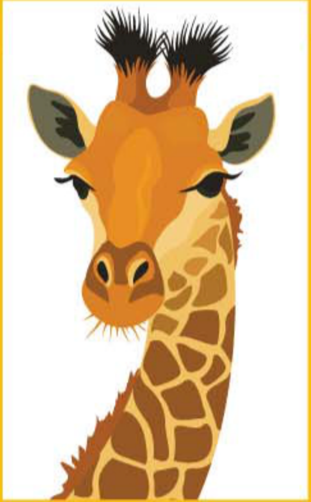
Why do quokkas smile so much?

— MAGGIE, 10, UT

The big secret is that quokkas aren't actually smiling — at least not in the way we do. You see, humans smile when they're happy. Quokkas, however, look like they're smiling all of the time simply because that's the shape of their faces! And when a smile opens its mouth to give a big smile with teeth? Well, that's their way of panting when they're hot.

Why do giraffes have horns?

— OLLIE, 8, VT



Those horn-like structures are called ossicones. They are similar to horns, except that they are bones that are permanently covered in the giraffe's skin and fur. Their ossicones are used as a defense when giraffes are fighting one another. They will butt heads, with their horns hitting the other giraffe. Female giraffes have thinner, fluffier ossicones, whiles male giraffes have thicker ossicones that are often missing hair at the top because of their fighting.

Why do cats wiggle their butts before pouncing?

— DAPHNE, 13, CT

Scientists aren't 100% sure why cats do that cute little wiggle before they pounce! The leading scientific theory is that doing the wiggle pushes their back legs into the ground, which gives them extra grip to help them leap forward. That would mean that the wiggle makes them jump a bit higher!

Why does my dog eat snow?

— IAN, 9, NJ

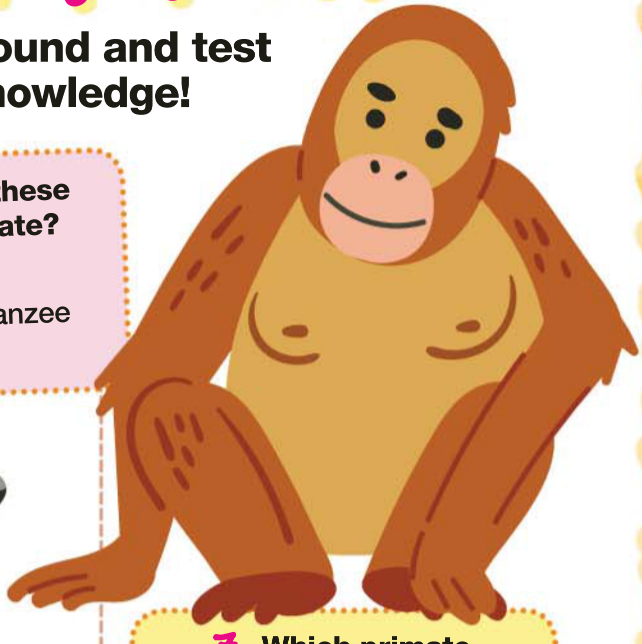
There are two main reasons dogs eat snow. The first is that they're thirsty! Snow melts down to water, so if they're outside and looking for a drink, snow is a great choice. The other reason is curiosity. Snow is something that only happens a few months out of the year in most places, so the new look and texture of snow covering their usually grassy yard makes your dog curious, and he investigates by taking a bite. The good news is that, as long as the snow is clean, it's perfectly safe for them to eat.

SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS!

Do you have a question about an animal? We'd love to answer it for you! Send your question to *Animal Tales*, Critter Q&A, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004 or email mail@animaltalesmag.com.

PRIMATE TRIVIA!

Monkey around and test your knowledge!

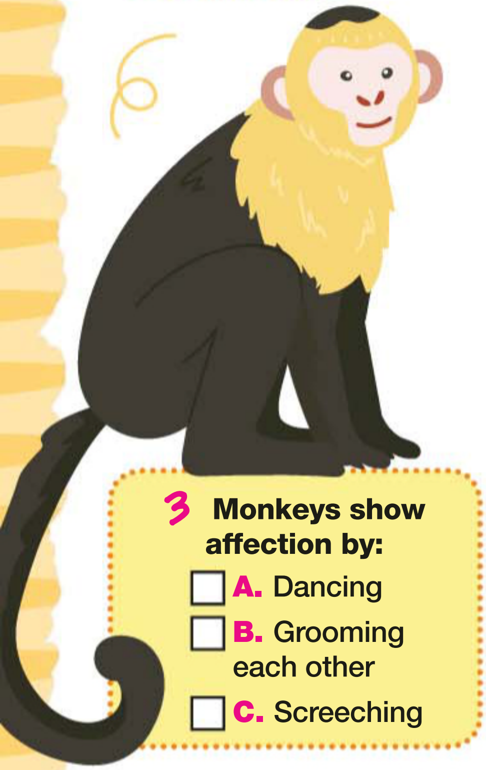


1 **What is a group of monkeys called?**

☐ **A.** A party
☐ **B.** A troop
☐ **C.** A flock

2 **What type of animals are primates?**

☐ **A.** Mammals
☐ **B.** Amphibians
☐ **C.** Reptile



3 **Monkeys show affection by:**

☐ **A.** Dancing
☐ **B.** Grooming each other
☐ **C.** Screeching

4 **Which of these is not a primate?**

☐ **A.** Lemur
☐ **B.** Chimpanzee
☐ **C.** Koala

5 **Most primates are omnivores. That means they eat:**

☐ **A.** Only meat
☐ **B.** Only plants
☐ **C.** Meat and plants

6 **What is the difference between monkeys and apes?**

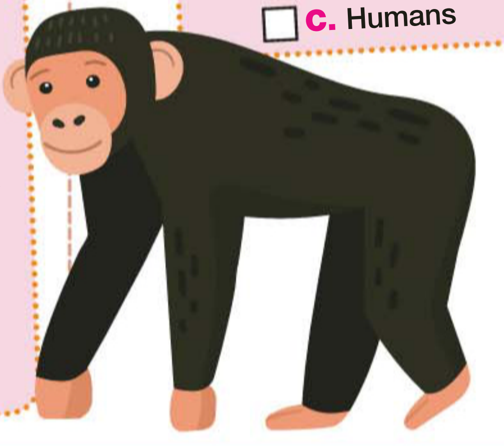
☐ **A.** Monkeys have tails and apes do not
☐ **B.** Monkeys know how to climb and apes do not
☐ **C.** Monkeys are smart and apes are not

7 **Which primate gets its name from its long insect-like arms and legs?**

☐ **A.** Orangutan
☐ **B.** Spider monkey
☐ **C.** Octopus monkey

8 **Which living thing is most closely related to the chimpanzee?**

☐ **A.** Anteaters
☐ **B.** Whales
☐ **C.** Humans



YOUR UNIVERSE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Answer key: 1. B; 2. A; 3. B; 4. C; 5. C; 6. A; 7. B; 8. C

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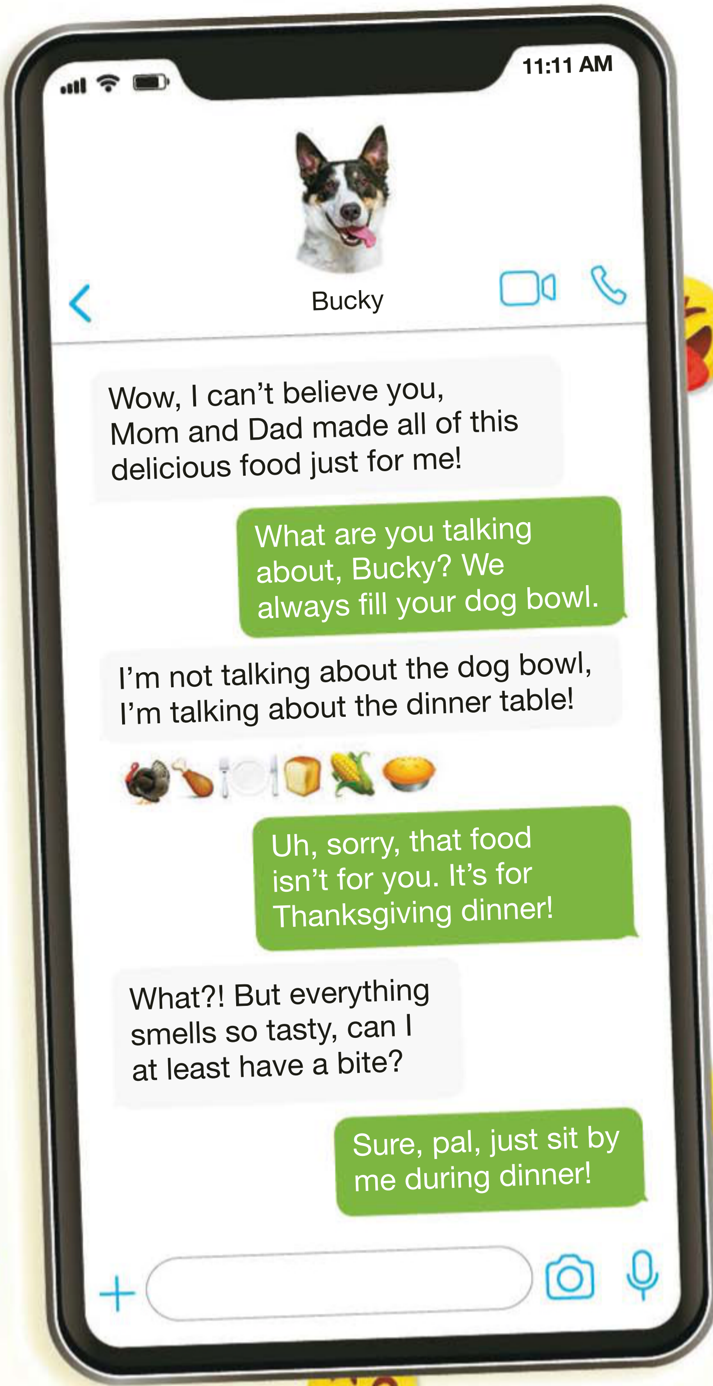
YAF223SF

IF PETS CO

LOL at what would happen if your furry friend could use a phone!



Wow, I can't believe you, Mom and Dad made all of this delicious food just for me!

What are you talking about, Bucky? We always fill your dog bowl.

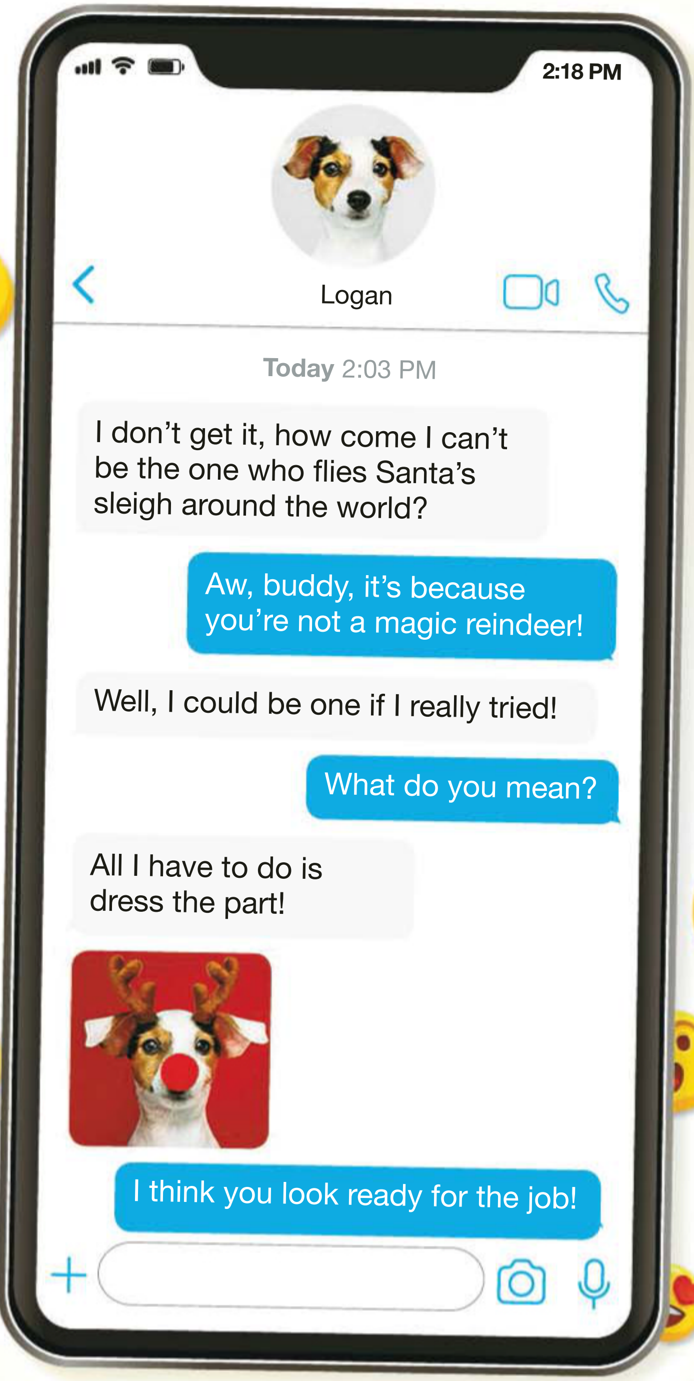
I'm not talking about the dog bowl, I'm talking about the dinner table!

🦃🍗🍽️🍞🌽🥧

Uh, sorry, that food isn't for you. It's for Thanksgiving dinner!

What?! But everything smells so tasty, can I at least have a bite?

Sure, pal, just sit by me during dinner!



I don't get it, how come I can't be the one who flies Santa's sleigh around the world?

Aw, buddy, it's because you're not a magic reindeer!

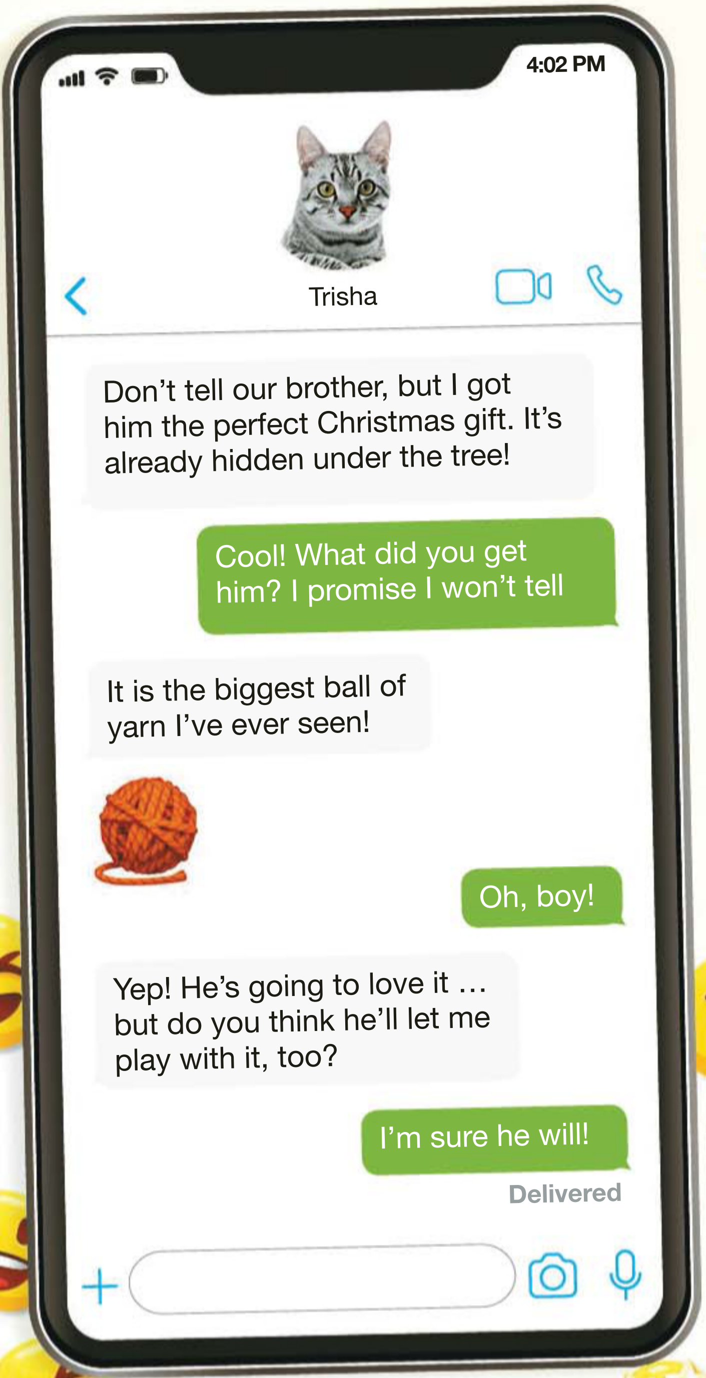
Well, I could be one if I really tried!

What do you mean?

All I have to do is dress the part!

I think you look ready for the job!

ULD TEXT!



4:02 PM

Trisha

Don't tell our brother, but I got him the perfect Christmas gift. It's already hidden under the tree!

Cool! What did you get him? I promise I won't tell

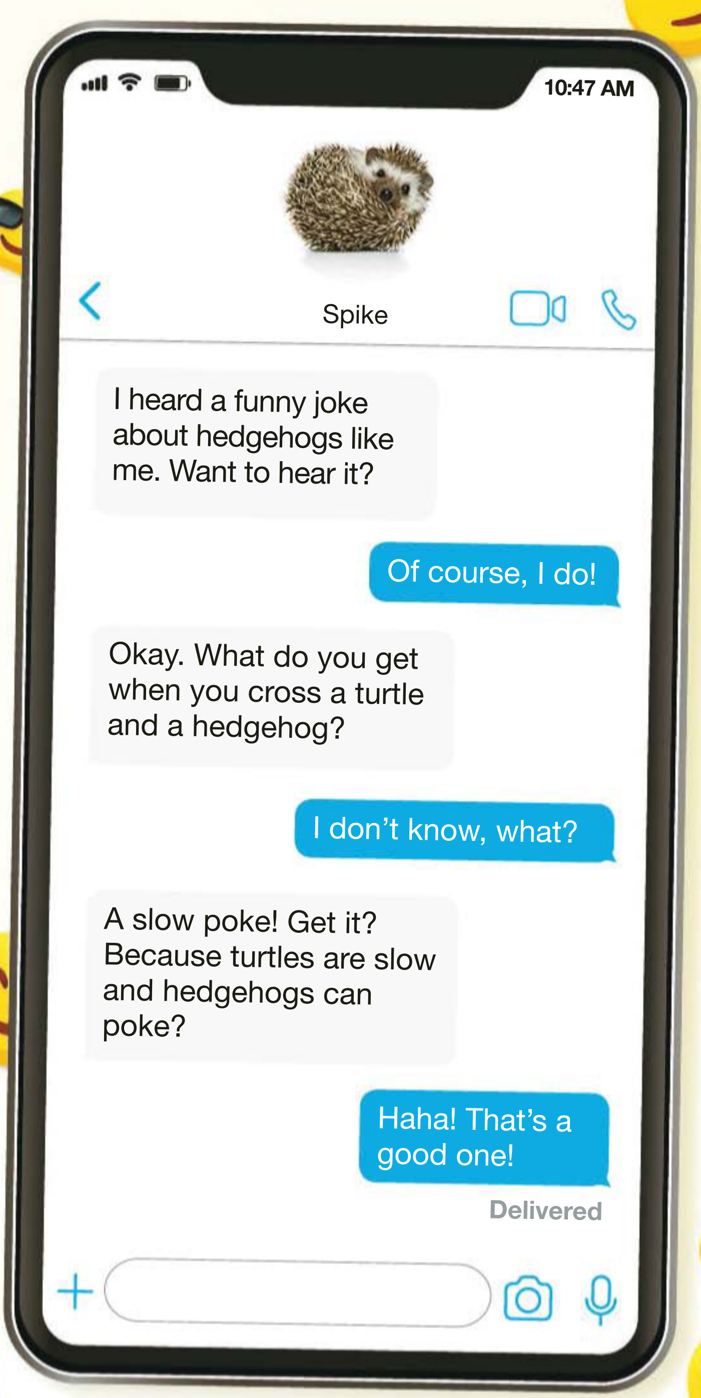
It is the biggest ball of yarn I've ever seen!

Oh, boy!

Yep! He's going to love it … but do you think he'll let me play with it, too?

I'm sure he will!

Delivered



10:47 AM

Spike

I heard a funny joke about hedgehogs like me. Want to hear it?

Of course, I do!

Okay. What do you get when you cross a turtle and a hedgehog?

I don't know, what?

A slow poke! Get it? Because turtles are slow and hedgehogs can poke?

Haha! That's a good one!

Delivered

ANNETTE SHAFF/SHUTTERSTOCK; RAWPIXEL.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); AFRICA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; VIOREL SIMA/SHUTTERSTOCK; APPLE (7)

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Send us a picture of your pet or a wild animal, and it could end up on this page! You can email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com, tag us on Instagram @animaltalesmag or send it to *Animal Tales*, Your Pics, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

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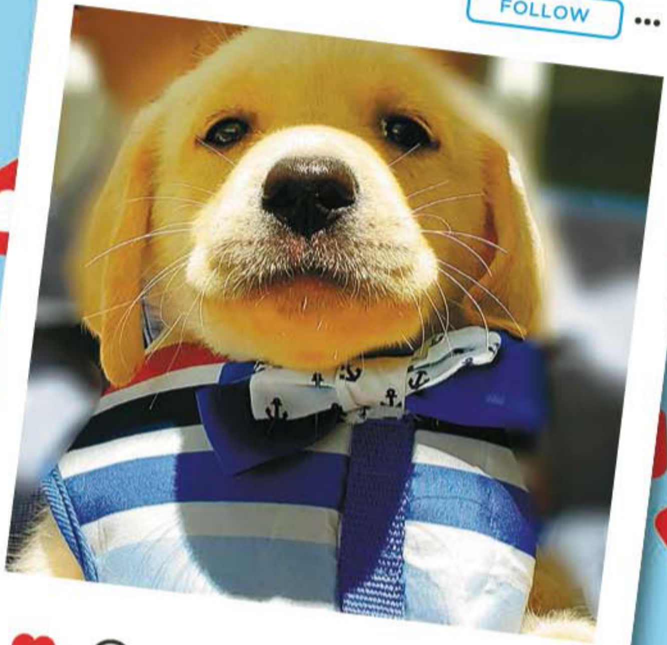

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Animal Tales

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